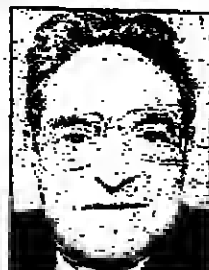




FAILED BY MEDICINE

How doctors are neglecting women

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GEORGE SOROS

Bosnia: it is not too late for intervention

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THE TIMES

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45p

Mark must quit — Delors

Markets ready for new blitz on ERM

In spite of the efforts of European finance ministers at the weekend, the battered ERM will face continuing assaults in the money markets

By JANET BUSH IN LONDON AND GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN finance ministers have insisted that the exchange-rate mechanism must go on, but the battered system is likely to face new assaults today from speculators undeterred by the rescue attempt thrashed out in talks in Brussels last night.

Political priorities, which have dogged the ERM for the past two years, ensured that it would continue in form if not really in substance. The message from Brussels after two days of talks was one of determination that the currency system must be preserved and with it hopes for closer European co-operation and an eventual monetary union.

Ministers from Denmark and Spain, who saw their currencies bludgeoned down to their floors in the ERM on Friday, were defiant, saying they would not allow their currencies to be devalued and

talks was poisonous with anger directed towards Germany. Anibal Cavaco Silva, the Portuguese prime minister, said that he hoped that Germany "would see that it has to make a contribution towards the stability of the system". In Rome, *Corriere della Sera* said that Germany had renounced the leadership of Europe because the Bundesbank had put national interests before those of the EC. Countering the attacks, Theo Weigel, Germany's finance minister, defended the Bundesbank, saying, "Germany had done everything it could to preserve stability."

Sources at the meeting said that ten hours of meetings on Saturday and Sunday of the monetary committee of central bankers and treasury officials which oversees the ERM had presented the finance ministers with six choices. These were listed as: suspending the German mark and Dutch guilder from the system, suspending the system and allowing all its currencies to float freely, allowing a small group of the weakest members such as the Spanish peseta and Portuguese escudo to float, widening the fluctuation bands, strengthening intervention machinery and a "fast-track" monetary union between France, Germany and perhaps the Benelux countries.

No sticking plaster deal will satisfy the financial markets. Last Thursday, the markets demanded a minimum 5-point cut in Germany's key discount rate as the price for peace in the ERM. Now they require nothing less than immediate interest rate cuts throughout Europe to reignite recession-bound economies.

George Soros, who helped out sterling from the ERM last September and was yesterday afternoon enjoying a game of tennis, said that the system is "really broken and you can't repair the arrangements as they are at the moment".

Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said he hoped that yesterday's emergency meeting would secure currency stability but emphasised that the overriding priority of the discussions was to make sure "that the European economies come out of recession and recover".



Triumphant hug: England's women cricketers congratulate England's captain, Deborah Lloyd, after she ran out New Zealand's Debbie Hockley in the World Cup final at Lord's yesterday. England beat the New Zealanders by 67 runs. Report, page 19

Four die in sporting accidents

By ADRIAN BRADLEY AND JENNY KNIGHT

FOUR people died in three separate sporting accidents yesterday. Two parachutists fell 10,000ft to their deaths during a tandem parachute jump, while two competitors died in accidents at the British go-kart grand prix at Brands Hatch, Kent.

A parachute instructor and a novice, thought to have been bought the jump as a present, fell to their deaths over Llangrannog, near Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Their parachute, designed to carry two people, was believed not to have opened. Police and the British Parachute Association have launched enquiries.

John Hitchen, an instructor who saw the incident, said: "It is the first time there has been a fatal accident using tandem parachute equipment." About 2,000 spectators watched as Gordon Ellnor, from Tadley in Hampshire, died after spinning off the track at Brands Hatch. The second driver, whose name was not released, died later in a collision. The meeting was then abandoned.

Tim Bampton, circuit corporate affairs manager, said: "It is highly unusual for anyone to be involved in a fatal accident at a circuit, so a double accident like this is extreme bad luck."

Serbs fire after Croat forces miss pullout deadline

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SERB shells began to fall hours after Croatian forces defied deadlines to evacuate areas of the disputed Krajina region in western Croatia. United Nations military observers reported that Serb shells fell close to the Maslenica bridge on the Adriatic coast yesterday afternoon and sirens sounded in Knin, the capital of the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina.

UN sources said the shelling was not sustained. But Radio Knin announced a general alert and civilians were ordered to go to shelters.

Brigadier Borislav Djukic said that Croat forces had shelled a village close to the Peruca Dam and the Krajina army had resolved to take "the decision to prevent the use of these facilities and to respond to the shelling". This was a clear warning that unless the Croats honoured an agreement made two weeks ago to withdraw from Krajina the Serbs would destroy the Maslenica pontoon bridge and shell Zadar airport.

The shelling at Maslenica came after senior United Nations and Croatian military commanders had met for an emergency meeting. General

John MacInnis, the deputy commander of UN forces, emerged from the discussions praising the "restraint and flexibility" of both sides.

Croatian troops were due to have withdrawn on Saturday from the parts of Krajina that they recaptured from the Serbs last January, but last week added new conditions for compliance. This provoked Serb officials into declaring that if the Croats did not pull back it would mean war. The UN Security Council also demanded that the Croats evacuate, warning of "serious consequences" if they did not. Late on Saturday the Serbs extended the deadline until yesterday.

If Croat forces do withdraw from an area of their own country the move will be interpreted as a tremendous humiliation.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said seven months ago that President Milosevic of Serbia "can't last much longer". George Soros, the international financier, said in last night's *Opinions* programme produced by Open Media for Channel 4.

Nato plea, page 10
Options, page 10

Right wing piles on the pressure for Major

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major will tomorrow come under strong pressure from right-wing ministers to privatise large parts of the welfare state as he faces continuing demands to review the decision to impose VAT on domestic fuel bills.

The Thatcherite No Turning Back Group, which counts among its members the three cabinet "bastards", Peter Lilley, Michael Portillo and John Redwood, is to publish a report urging the prime minister to abolish universal benefits such as pensions and child benefit.

The report will call for incentives to encourage people to opt out of state welfare provision for retirement and unemployment.

The prime minister has shown no sign of a climbdown on VAT, but a cabinet minister yesterday warned that the government would ignore the message of Christchurch voters at its peril.

"We listen or we die," David Hunt, the employment secretary, said. He put out other confusing signals, however, about how the government should react to its dismal showing at Christchurch.

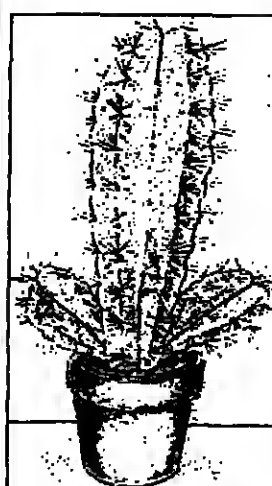
He argued that the reason the government went on to win general elections after losing by-elections was the fact that it did listen. But although he believed that VAT was one reason for the hammering at Christchurch, he was not in favour of "jiggling around" with the policy. "It is one of those difficult decisions, and we have never shirked difficult decisions," he said.

The prime minister seems to have boxed himself in on the issue, but if there is no repeal on VAT ministers will demand that pensioners be given generous compensation for the charges. Other alternatives to meet the £50 million public deficit, discussed at a pre-Budget meeting on Friday, were said to include emergency income-tax rises.

Peter Riddell and
Diary, page 14

SUMMER PLEASURES IN THE TIMES

Adrian Mole at 23½



SUE TOWNSEND'S four Adrian Mole books were the top bestsellers of the 1980s. In her new book, *The Wilderness Years*, Adrian Mole is 23½.

Still spurred by the beautiful Pandora, the misunderstood genius is working at the Department of the Environment, with special responsibility for newts.

He is determined to win the Booker, and many Pandoras — but will he succeed?

A two-week serialisation of probably the funniest book of 1993 will start on August 16.

Spies who stayed in the shadows

Britain's spies have come out from the cold and described how they work. Yet is the new openness genuine? In *The Times Magazine* on Saturday, John Le Carré, creator of George Smiley, the world's most famous fictional spy, recalls his own Secret Service days and argues that the true spymasters are still beyond reach.

Welcome to the best in France

Relais & Châteaux hotels are renowned throughout the world for their outstanding standards of cuisine, luxury and refinement. Starting on Saturday, *The Times* is offering readers discounts of up to 40 per cent at 72 Relais & Châteaux hotels in France.



Michael Atherton's biggest Test

On Thursday, Michael Atherton faces Australia in his first test as England's captain. Can he succeed where Graham Gooch failed? Can he revive the morale of England's disgraced cricketers after their summer battering? Read cricket correspondent Alan Lee and John Woodcock on Atherton's new regime.



EVERY DAY *The Times* offers some of the wittiest and wisest writers in journalism. Today they include William Rees-Mogg on the awesome power of China and Matthew Parris on history's greatest gaffes (page 14) and Lynne Truss on television (page 37). Don't miss Britain's best writers.

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ON OTHER PAGES

Shine off Euro-coin 2
Anthony Harris 2
Test for ERM 36

that they would not be hounded by speculators.

French officials, who were reported to be furious with the decision of the Bundesbank last week not to cut its discount rate and take off pressure on the ERM, had high-level contacts with their German counterparts throughout the weekend, including a lengthy bilateral meeting between formal talks hosted by Belgian ministers yesterday evening. The French concentrated their efforts on trying to force a rate cut from Germany to avoid a humiliating devaluation or departure from the system.

French television reported last night that finance ministers had considered changing the system so that the mark — and the mark alone — would have a wider trading band. The report also quoted Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, as saying he favoured the mark leaving the system for a while. The mood of yesterday's

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L-reg boom breathes life into car trade

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

NEW CARS worth more than £600 million were driven from the showrooms of garages yesterday, indicating a revival for Britain's recession-hit motor industry. Some garages opened from 6am so customers could be first to drive away with L-registration plates.

About 68,000 cars were sold yesterday — more than during the whole of July. This points to a sale of more than 400,000 for August, the fifth biggest one-month sale on record and the highest August figure for three years.

A spokesman for Currie Motors in Twickenham, Surrey, said: "We have been working round the clock to be ready. We delivered 30 cars to customers' homes on Saturday and we opened early so people could be on the roads as soon as possible."

This month's performance will hearten an industry which suffered badly during the recession with more than £4 billion worth of annual sales lost in just two years. Neil Marshall, chief economist at the Retail Motor Industry Federation, which represents 12,000 garages, said: "August has seen the real return of the car buyer."

We have seen a rising trend for quite a long time now but a lot of people have waited for August to come around for the new registration.

A survey published today by Touche Ross, the management consultants, shows that four out of five dealers are now optimistic about their future, expecting a ten per cent increase in sales this year and an increase in profits on new cars of 4.7 per cent.

However, if most dealers had their way, the annual deluge would be scrapped. A survey of 700 dealers by *Automotive News* discovered 62 per cent want to end the registration date in August.

I've had L-plates for years





Key men: Otto Stich (Switzerland), left, Theo Waigel (Germany), Ferdinand Lacina (Austria), Lamberto Dini (Italy), Hans Tietmeyer (Bundesbank) and Edouard Balladur (France)

The more brittle the system, the louder the crash

BY ANTHONY HARRIS

THE French scapegoats for the crisis in the European Monetary System are the Bundesbank, or else an implausible Anglo-Saxon conspiracy against Europe. (This must be the plot that humiliated John Major last year.) But could the system ever have worked as a near-fixed pattern of exchange rates? History says no.

The 1940s Bretton Woods system, now the subject of much nostalgia, was also prey to crises and conspiracy theories, though it was less ambitious — it called for stable rather than fixed rates — and was better protected against speculation.

Bretton Woods was concerned mainly with trade and trade bal-

ances. This made misalignment easy to define, which avoided argument. More important, it permitted the use of exchange controls. But even this relatively undemanding system proved crisis-prone when changes were needed. Misalignment offers risk-free profit to speculators; and misalignment is bound to arise.

Was the system too brittle? There were proposals to prop up Bretton Woods by making adjustments smaller and smoother, but none was tried. Europe was bolder. Following an idea first floated in Bretton Woods days, target exchange rate ranges in the EMS were at first moved in such small steps that actual market rates seldom had to move. Coupled with exchange con-

■ The future of Europe's money is a hard choice between one currency or floating rates

trols, this system largely eliminated speculative crises; but devaluing currencies had to pay a price. The markets expected them to devalue again, and suspicion could only be pacified within a fixed-rate system through painfully high interest rates. Two changes wrecked this successful start. First, free capital movements were introduced as part of the drive to a single market, which liberated huge funds for "specu-

lation". Then Maastricht imposed discipline on parties as a step to a currency union. A once flexible system had become even more brittle than Bretton Woods at its worst. A currency crisis was only a matter of time.

Is it worth struggling on? A strong lobby in Paris argues for going straight to a currency union, without waiting for convergence. But this would create a new problem. There would be no cure available for chronic regional decline.

Economies decline for any number of reasons. When the victim is a region in a single country, it may be helped by directives or subsidies, but the EC budget is not nearly big enough to cope. Devaluation, which

attracts inward investment, is their only effective recourse.

Fully floating exchange rates offer the other radical alternative. Strains can be accommodated without crises; markets have no banked-up expectations demanding ransom. But such a system does little to encourage integration, the main economic objective of the EC.

Currency management is essentially a political question, not a technical one — a choice of dilemmas. Federalists lean to a single currency and a big enough EC budget to make it work. Those who want a Europe of nations prefer floating. What is not so clear, after the latest crisis, is the case for the EMS halfway house.

Cruel markets take shine off the Euro-coin

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

AS FINANCE ministers sat in one of the grimmest concrete towers in Brussels yesterday and sweated over an unappetising menu of options for saving the European Community's exchange-rate mechanism, it was easy to imagine that a faint grin may have crossed John Major's face.

Two years ago, half a mile from the site of yesterday's meetings, his negotiators were fighting a rearguard action against the Maastricht treaty's plans for economic and monetary union. They won the battle of securing an opt-out for Britain but lost the war to sell the idea of a "hard ecu" as an experimental parallel common currency.

The struggle over a single currency for Europe has always been between evolutionary economic schemes and politicians' timetables. In 1991, the timetable writers won the day. Mr Major and Norman Lamont, then Chancellor, argued in isolation that Europe could secure the benefits of its single market not by fusing currencies but by creating a separate pan-European money for international transactions. The "hard ecu" plan, treated with disdain by the rest of the EC, was an open-ended technicians' answer to an economic problem.

The EC's majority, led by France, were looking for a political answer to a deeper dilemma. They needed to show that a strengthened Community could cope with the power and wealth of a reunified Germany. The proudly independent monetarists of the Bundesbank would be forced to join a European Central Bank. Instead of Germany leading the

linked currencies of the ERM in whatever direction it wanted to go, French, Dutch and Belgian bankers would have a hand on the steering wheel.

But Mr Major was right in sensing that the capitalism of the markets was stronger than his partners' political will. What the past 11 months have revealed is that the project for a single currency has a double weakness.

The markets will exploit the tensions between unpopular domestic rigour and a high exchange rate in the ERM. But the Maastricht timetable rests on feeble political foundations as well. Public opinion is unsure about a single currency and bankers and business people are similarly divided. The German and Dutch parliaments have secured assurances that they can vote on any merger of currencies. France ratified Maastricht by a whisker. The Danish government won a second referendum by promising voters that it had no plans to enter monetary union.

None of this means an end to Britain's dilemmas in the European economy. The steady integration of EC business and trade will produce renewed pressure for the management of exchange rates or union. The need to tie down Germany will evaporate.

But those problems will be tackled by a new political generation, for the men who created the Maastricht agenda — Chancellor Kohl, President Mitterrand, Jacques Delors — are on their way out. None is strong enough to rush part of Europe into a bold monetary union.

ERM defended, page 1



Walls down: the Chancellor demands freer EC trade

Put jobs before EC laws, says Clarke

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND NICHOLAS WATT

KENNETH Clarke called on the European Community yesterday to pull down its barriers to trade and to make the fight against unemployment its top priority.

In an implicit assault on the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty, the Chancellor said that nobody could fool themselves that Europe could spend its way back to growth and employment.

Mr Clarke was commenting on the publication yesterday of a European Commission review of the scope of EC action in the social field. "The United Kingdom's prescription is straightforward: get rid of the barriers to employment, get rid of the barriers to trade, encourage enterprise and the growth and jobs will come," Mr Clarke said.

"Europe has to stop pricing and regulating its workers out of jobs. If Europe is to compete successfully with the US and Japan, it needs to learn lessons from them about flexible labour markets and working practices — lessons painfully learnt by the UK in the 1970s and acted on in the 1980s."

Britain's toughly worded

report, which calls on the EC to abandon new laws on social policy and employment, is the government's first attempt to steer Brussels away from legislation and towards a much more hands-off approach since John Major negotiated an opt-out from the Maastricht treaty's social chapter.

The government is already contesting the legal basis of the European decision to set a maximum 48-hour working week, and ministers are concerned that the current Belgian presidency of the EC will bring forward legislation to restrict part-time working and the employment of young people and to bring in European-wide works councils.

Britain's report calls for all future social policy to be based on increasing, and not restricting, the opportunity of individuals. The government proposes three "cardinal principles" for all future employment and social policy in Europe: competitiveness, subsidiarity unless there is a very strong case for central action, and diversity of social policy, especially if the present Community of 12 nations is enlarged.

Bitter French blame les Anglo-Saxons

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

AS FRENCH leaders faced the possibility of a monetary Waterloo yesterday, only small cracks appeared in the united front of main parties behind the Gaullist government's fight to defend the franc against what is seen as an assault by unscrupulous foreigners.

Roland Dumas, foreign minister until last March, blamed a lack of prudence by Edouard Balladur, the prime minister, in his haste to drop interest rates after taking office in early April. "We bequeathed the present government a strong franc; today they are giving us a franc that is

somewhat weakened." His remarks were a rare reproach amid a remarkable public silence among the political classes. Only Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front leader, mocked the government for behaving with the same hopeless bluster as the leadership on the eve of the German invasion of 1940.

Officials rallied privately at Germany's "betrayal" of its main partner, M. Balladur, President Mitterrand and their ministers spent much of the weekend trying to convey the strength of their anguish to their German counterparts, sources said.

Germany came in for mild criticism in the media, which preferred to focus

patriotic indignation on the "Anglo-Saxons" — Britain and America. *Le Monde* said that the monetary crisis was the product of two diametrically opposed cultures: the Anglo-Saxon worship of free markets and the French belief in the value of central direction.

Behind the patriotic defiance, knives were being sharpened and positions prepared in the ruling coalition for the political shock that will follow any defeat of the franc fort. M. Balladur has left himself little escape. "I am indelibly attached to the stability of the franc in the EMS," he said two months ago. "I exclude, for today and for the future, any other policy."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brown wants £5 fee for Labour members

John Smith, the Labour leader, is under pressure from shadow cabinet colleagues to launch a mass membership drive to reverse the fall in paid-up party supporters. Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, is to publish a pamphlet in the next two weeks calling for a nominal subscription rate of about £5, topped up by donations.

The report says that increasing the membership should now become the party's top priority. There should also be a national campaign to recruit trade unionists into full membership. Membership has fallen from a post-war high of a million to about 220,000 today and the party is now facing a £1.7 million deficit. Mr Brown's move follows calls yesterday by Gavin Law, the engineering union leader, to support Mr Smith's trade union reforms to increase the party's chances of winning the next election.

Search for body of boy

Police will resume a search today for the body of a boy aged 13 who was swept out to sea at Blackpool, Lancashire, on Friday while on a council-supervised outing. Police said that there was little chance of finding the unnamed boy alive. He was one of six teenagers on a day trip to Blackpool from a children's home in Middleton, Manchester. He was said to have been playing at dodging waves. Two social services staff from Rochdale council may face charges of criminal negligence over the incident.

Alzheimer's skin test

American scientists have devised a simple skin test to detect patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease, the world's most common degenerative brain disorder. The test, which involves scraping a few cells from the forearm, should enable doctors to tell which patients have the disease before they become severely affected.

£1m of heroin seized

Four men were being questioned yesterday after customs officers seized two kilograms of heroin — worth £1 million on the streets — which had been smuggled in through Manchester airport. The men, all UK nationals from the Pakistani community, were arrested in Birmingham on Saturday night after a two-week surveillance operation.

Girl, 11, assaulted

A man has been charged with a serious sexual offence after a girl aged 11 was grabbed from behind and dragged into a field in St Helens, Merseyside, on Saturday. The attacker fled on foot and the girl managed to stop a motorist for help. The man, 24, is due to appear before St Helens magistrates today.

Murder attempt charges

Two Frenchmen described as "drifters" have been charged with the attempted murder of Kerry Clegg, right, the British touring footballer found beaten and unconscious in a gravel pit near Bordeaux on July 19. The pair, both 20, are also charged with theft. Miss Clegg, 18, of Blackburn, Lancashire, is still in hospital in Bordeaux with severe head injuries. She has only a partial recollection of the attack.



Times cuts price in Kent

The Times announced yesterday that, for a limited period, its cover price in Kent would be cut by 15p to 30p on weekdays and 35p on Saturday. Peter Stothard, the editor, said that the test was part of a continuing assessment of trends in the quality newspaper market and would be reviewed over the coming weeks.

Crossword finalists

BY JOHN GRANT

CLIVE Spate, head of mathematics at Queen Elizabeth's School, Mansfield, won the Birmingham regional final of The Times Knowledge Crossword Championship, at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, yesterday. Mr Spate, who is 41 and lives in Woodthorpe, Derbyshire, completed the four puzzles in an average time of 11 minutes each. Michael

Macdonald-Cooper, 51, a retired education administrator from Kirmuir, Tayside, who was national champion in 1991, was second, averaging 12½ minutes. Terence Girle, 64, a retired technical officer from Bridgewater, Somerset, the national champion in 1984, was third, averaging 13 minutes. All three go forward to the national final at the Hilton Hotel, London, on September 12.

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What the French drink when they're not winning.

حديقة من الامم

Stove fumes poison children in tent

Marksman's toll from single shots heightens tension in 'bandit country'

Army searches for cover against IRA's deadly sniper

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE British Army is negotiating to buy hundreds of American-made flak jackets to try to protect soldiers patrolling the "bandit country" of south Armagh from a sniper known locally as Goldfinger.

Security forces in Ulster hope that the reinforced flak jackets, costing more than £800 each, will shield troops from the deadly Barrett Light Fifty rifle with which the sniper has killed four British soldiers and two policemen in the past year. He has assumed almost mythical status in republican circles because he has killed each victim with a single shot.

Sources said that the jackets would be issued only to soldiers and police operating in the immediate area where the four soldiers — including two in the past six weeks — have been killed.

"We have not bought any new flak jackets yet, but we are always looking into ways of increasing the protection given to our soldiers," one source said. He acknowledged that the heavier jackets would encumber soldiers on cross-country patrol, but indicated that this was regarded as an acceptable trade-off between mobility and protection.

The disclosure follows reports that the army has drafted a detachment of the SAS into south Armagh to assist the intensive surveillance operation aimed at capturing the sniper and his back-up team.

Officers deny suggestions that morale among men sent

out on patrols in south Armagh is suffering badly. "We are keeping an eye on the boys and keeping a finger on the pulse in terms of how they are taking it," an army spokesman said, adding that officers were emphasising the need for extra vigilance on basic drills and general fieldcraft.

This weekend, in a possible first miss for the sniper, a single shot was fired late on Saturday at an army vehicle checkpoint close to Newtownhamilton. Soldiers managed to return fire at a car which sped away from the scene. It is now known if anyone was hit.

The incident happened close to the scene of the shooting of Private John Randall, 19, on June 26. He was the first of two members of The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment to be killed by the sniper. Army sources said that, because of the use of a car, they were not convinced that the same IRA team was involved.

The advent of the sniper and the use of the powerful Barrett gun — which fires 0.50 calibre ammunition at speeds of

1,907mph and causes severe wounds and fatal shock — have re-established south Armagh's reputation as "bandit country", a name coined by Merlyn Rees, a former Labour Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

In the bars of Crossmaglen, a village on the Irish border bristling with hostility to the "British army of occupation", local republicans call the sniper Goldfinger. They believe that his activities have had a decisive impact on morale among soldiers and have put an end to all but the most urgent of police patrols.

They also claim that the army has been deliberately vague about the weapons used in several of the killings in an attempt to offset fears among soldiers about the Barrett. In the latest two killings, the army has been strangely unable to pinpoint the weapon used.

The killings are causing heightened friction between soldiers and residents and have already led to ugly incidents. Three guests at a wedding were allegedly roughed up after soldiers tore down a placard with the words "Welcome to Crossmaglen Sniper's Alley".

Most people take little pleasure in the murders but have grown hardened to violence over the years. As one Crossmaglen resident put it: "People here don't rejoice, they don't go out shouting when a soldier is shot. But it is a war here, it's a war situation."



All-night raves span the divide in Ulster

BY JAMES LANDALE

ALL-NIGHT music raves in Northern Ireland are so popular they are beginning to break down tribal barriers. Thousands of young Catholics and Protestants travel to the dance parties each weekend because only there can they mix without fear, say the organisers.

On Saturday night and Sunday morning, 1,600 people attended a legal "Heltraiser" rave party at the Ulster Hall, a concert venue owned by Belfast City Council. When the doors opened at 7.30pm, almost 1,000 of the ravers were already waiting outside; many had queued for four hours.

Gareth Graham, managing director of The Underground, a firm which organises raves, said that young people from the Loyalist Shankill part of Belfast mixed freely with those from the nationalist Falls Road area. "Kids from both ghettos look at each other and realise that they do not have horns and tails. It is the first time since the punk explosion in the 1970s that the two ghettos have come together."

He said the raves were popular because they were different. "The kids just don't want to do the usual thing like standing on street corners, drinking and stealing cars."

Mary Carson, a freelance music journalist in Belfast, said that raves were especially popular among the young, unemployed working class. "Their dolc money will all go on a rave. Raves are their one big night in the week and they really go for it."

She said there was never any talk of religion. "Everybody is there just for the music and the crack (fun, not the drug) and, in some cases, the drugs," she said.

The RUC said that the raves were mainly peaceful and free of drugs. "Generally, they are well-behaved but there is always a police presence, just in case," a spokesman said.

Steve Anderson, a spokesman for Heltraiser, said the police were originally suspicious of raves but were now quite happy with them. "If there are 2,000 16 to 20-year-olds partying in the Ulster Hall it is safe to park your car in west Belfast," he said.

Teenager stabbed to death in street

POLICE appealed for shoppers to come forward yesterday after a teenage job-hunter was stabbed to death in Birmingham city centre.

Simon Bowyer, 17, was attacked outside a newsagent in a pedestrianised shopping area on Saturday afternoon. A passing doctor tried to revive him but he died on the way to hospital.

As more than 40 detectives continued the hunt for his killer, officers appealed for witnesses from the hundreds of shoppers who were near by. Det Supt Malcolm Ross said: "This was a senseless and motiveless killing."

Although Mr Bowyer was stabbed in an area where youths are often seen distributing anti-racist leaflets, West Midlands police have ruled out any racial motive. Mr Ross said: "He was seen arguing with a black youth in front of a Midland Bank in New Street by several shoppers. It appears the youth pulled a knife and then chased Simon round the side of an advertising hoarding and diagonally across the road, where he stabbed him numerous times in the back."

Mr Bowyer's killer is described as black, six foot, in his late teens to early 20s, with two gold teeth and short, cropped hair with zig-zag patterns shaved in it. He was wearing a three-quarter length brown or green coat, dark baggy trousers and white baseball boots.

Mr Bowyer, who lived with his mother and brother in Bartley Green, Birmingham, had been in the city looking for casual work as a barman.



arguing with knife-man

Pedestrians may be banned from Bristol's suicide bridge

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol may be closed to pedestrians to prevent suicidal leaps into the Avon gorge 245ft below.

A report by Bristol health authority suggests that closing the walkways on the 129-year-old bridge is the only way to prevent the fatal leaps, which number up to ten a year.

Dr Kieron Morgan, the authority's public health director, said the idea of closing the bridge was "worthy of consideration. If it were not accessible, people would not use it for that purpose."

"There is a notion that people will find some other way, and we think that is not strictly true. The suspension bridge is a dramatic place to take your life."

Simon Brooks, chairman of the trust which manages the

bridge, said it was an absurd idea. "Closing it would be the equivalent of banning the motor car. People are killed on our roads every day, but to ban the car is not a practicable proposition," he said.

Pedestrians pay a small fee to walk along Isambard Kingdom Brunel's engineering masterpiece, which has become a tourist attraction. It was completed in 1864, since when more than 1,000 people have taken the plunge.

Only a handful have survived, including a felled Victorian barmaid whose billowing skirt acted as a parachute, and who lived to the age of 85; two children who were thrown from the parapet by their deranged father; and a would-be parachutist who suffered minor injuries.

The bridge has also become

a popular location for bungee-jumping, although it is strongly discouraged.

The elegant bridge, which links the Georgian terraces of Clifton with the Ashton Court estate and rolling countryside on the far side, has for generations exerted a fatal pull upon broken-hearted lovers, harassed students, failed businessmen and the sick.

After Beachy Head in East Sussex it is the most notorious location for making your quietus, far outstripping the more brutal appeal of its nearest rival, the Severn bridge linking England and Wales.

The Samaritans have established telephone hotlines at each end of the bridge to give the despairing a chance to talk to someone who might dissuade them from suicide.



Three held on Triad charges

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THREE men are to appear in court today after an 18-month investigation by detectives into Chinese Triad gangs involved in extortion and protection rackets.

The men were charged after raids by officers from the

North and West Yorkshire forces, regional crime squad and police intelligence, and by immigration officials. Hong Kong police were also reported to have been involved in the investigation.

Arrests were made during the weekend in Bradford, Holmfirth near Huddersfield and York. The men will

appear before magistrates at Skipton.

A North Yorkshire police spokesman said that the co-ordinated operation was "the culmination of a long enquiry into the activities of a Chinese Triad secret society". He said that the undercover work concentrated on Chinese restaurants and takeaways.

Police retrace student's final days

POLICE from three forces met yesterday to try to piece together the final days of a postgraduate student whose body was found buried head-first in Scottish woodland.

Craig Swann, 30, who was studying languages at Southampton University, disappeared after leaving his parents' home at Broxburn, West Lothian, on August 10 last year.

Police interviewed more than a thousand people and alerted Interpol. The missing persons enquiry turned into a murder hunt on Thursday after his body was found in a shallow grave by a family out picking mushrooms near Loch Tummel, Tayside.

His red Datsun car was seen being parked by a man and woman in Ruchazie Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow, on the day he went missing. Police are not certain whether the man was Mr Swann, who had been due to fly to Argentina to spend six months teaching English, followed by a similar spell in Brazil.

A post-mortem examination has been carried out but police were refusing last night to disclose the cause of death.

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Stove fumes poison children in tent

BY LOUISE HIDALGO

TWO children were in hospital last night recovering from gas poisoning. Their parents had left a stove burning in their tent to keep them warm while they slept during a New Forest camping holiday.

Peter Cooper, seven, and his sister Micki, four, were being treated at Southampton general hospital. Peter had stopped breathing by the time he was discovered by his parents, who had been talking outside their tent unaware that their children were slowly being poisoned.

Timothy and Leonie Cooper, who live in Wilton, near Salisbury, Wiltshire, were alerted when they heard Peter having a fit.

They rushed into the tent at the campsite near Ringwood to find that both children were

having convulsions. By the time they had carried them outside into the open air, Peter had stopped breathing. His father tried to revive him while an ambulance was called.

Doctors confirmed yesterday the children had inhaled poisonous gases but said that their condition was no longer serious. They are to be kept in hospital for another couple of days for observation.

Hampshire police said that the incident was an "unfortunate accident with a fortunate result" and warned parents to be aware of the dangers before leaving gas appliances running in enclosed spaces. A spokesman said that if the children had been left in the tent for only a few minutes more they could have died.

Worker trapped in vat of hot peppermint

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A FACTORY worker was critically ill in hospital last night after being trapped in a vat of hot peppermint paste used for chocolate fillings. Ambulance men spent over an hour trying to haul him from the giant mixer after he had been buffeted by blades used to stir the mixture.

Alexander Turvey-Smith, a process worker at Nestlé Rowntree's York factory, had been cleaning the sides of the stainless steel vat when it is believed the blades started moving. He remained conscious as he was swirled around the mixer, which contained four inches of hot green paste.

Two medical rescue workers were lowered into the 4ft-deep vat head first to try to haul him to safety. Mr

Turvey-Smith, 35, who is married with two children, was being treated at York District Hospital for serious injuries to his head and chest. His leg was also broken and he has a suspected fractured pelvis.

Paul Brown, one of the rescue workers who finally managed to extract him from the vat, said they had kept Mr Turvey-Smith talking as they struggled to secure his head above the paste and clear of the mixer's blades. His clothes were removed after becoming entangled. "He was terrified. It was very hot. The smell was overpowering and nauseating. There was a very limited space in which to work."

Mr Turvey-Smith, from York, has worked at the Nestlé Rowntree factory for eight years.

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SECURITY SYSTEMS

A three-part series by The Times, starting today, examines discrimination against female patients

WOMEN are poorly served by modern medicine. They suffer discrimination, neglect and intrusive treatment at the hands of doctors. They have been excluded from research into heart disease, ignored in important campaigns such as that to improve the nation's diet, and assumed, wrongly, to respond to treatment in the same way as men.

As society moves towards the third millennium, women can look back on a century of progress in the fight for equal rights. But in the area that matters most,

their health, women are still treated as a colonial people by the imperial power of modern medicine. For some conditions, such as heart disease, they get less and worse treatment than men; for others, such as stress, they have been overtreated, habitually prescribed too many drugs. In childbirth, doctors have caused distress with unnecessary Caesarean operations and inductions. In the treatment of infertility, they have done too little. In the battle against breast cancer, one of the diseases most feared by women, doctors

WOMEN FAILED BY MEDICINE

have suffered ignominious defeat. Britain has the highest death rate from breast cancer in the world. In the United States, the neglect of women's health is attracting increasing attention. In 1991, the National Institutes of Health, under its new

director Bernadine Healy, set up a 15-year study of 160,000 women that will cost more than \$600 million and will include the largest clinical trial ever undertaken. The *Journal of Women's Health* published its first issue in 1992 and there have

been calls for a new medical specialty in women's health. Behind these moves is the slowly dawning recognition that in many areas of medicine, women are not like men. They respond to treatments differently because of their smaller size and different body composition and because of the effects of hormones. The government has a responsibility, too. The biggest threat to women's health is the rising number of girls who take up smoking. In Scotland, lung cancer has overtaken breast cancer as the chief cause

of death among women. A ban on tobacco advertising would do more to improve women's health than any other single measure.

The best hope for women in the future is the growing number of women doctors. In 1980, only 11 per cent of consultants and 17 per cent of GPs were women. Today, more than half the students at medical schools are women. As they climb the career ladder, they can be expected to take a closer interest than their male predecessors in the problems of their sex.

Why do doctors treat women so badly?

Heart disease can strike us all but men are given priority for surgery.

Jeremy Laurance examines causes of concern for women

DOCTORS are discriminating against women with heart disease by offering surgery to fewer of them than men. Research shows that men get 50 per cent more heart operations than women with the same condition.

A study of heart patients at 13 hospitals in two London health regions found there was no difference in the severity of disease between the two sexes but that men received more treatment, such as coronary bypass surgery.

The same bias against women has emerged in the United States. Heart disease is the biggest killer of American women and their risk of death as a result of a heart attack is higher than for men, yet they receive fewer investigations and less treatment. Women in

SURGERY

the US are also 20 per cent less likely to be given dialysis for kidney disease and 50 per cent less likely to have a kidney transplant.

Heart disease kills 80,000 women a year in Britain, compared with 100,000 men. But most of the research into the disease has been conducted among white middle-class men. There is evidence that women also have to wait longer than men for heart pacemakers.

Dr Mark Petticrew, of the health services research unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, author of the London hospitals study published in the *British Medical Journal*, said that heart disease was seen as a male killer disease. The gender bias in research may explain the different treatment of men and women, he said.

"We cannot really account for it. It may not be deliberate discrimination on the part of the surgeons. It may be that women are more willing to change their lifestyle. But we could find no clinical reasons for the differences in treatment." Family doctors may be less responsive to the needs of women with chest pains and be slower to refer them for treatment, he said.

There is also growing evidence that the advice given to men on diet and heart disease may not be appropriate for women. British and American studies show that women with high cholesterol have a lower heart disease risk than men with low cholesterol. Scientists believe that the hormone oestrogen produced during the reproductive years has a protective effect, giving women a ten-year advantage over men. After the menopause, heart disease rates among women rise rapidly to match those of men.

Specialists have criticised the unitary government targets for reducing the amount of fat in the diet set out in the Health of the Nation strategy. They say separate dietary targets should have been set for the two sexes.

In America, attention is being given to the under-representation of women in heart studies. "Perhaps it is time to tackle this in the UK as well," Dr Petticrew said.

Leading article, page 15

Pill total cries out for an answer

STRESS

WOMEN are prescribed more than twice as many mood-altering drugs as men. More than 15 million prescriptions are written for sleeping pills each year, 10 million for sedatives and tranquillizers and nine million for anti-depressants — for a population of 56 million. The reasons for the excess prescribing to women are disputed. Some doctors claim women suffer more hormonal problems which cause depression and anxiety, but others say low mood is the result of their low status as wives and mothers.

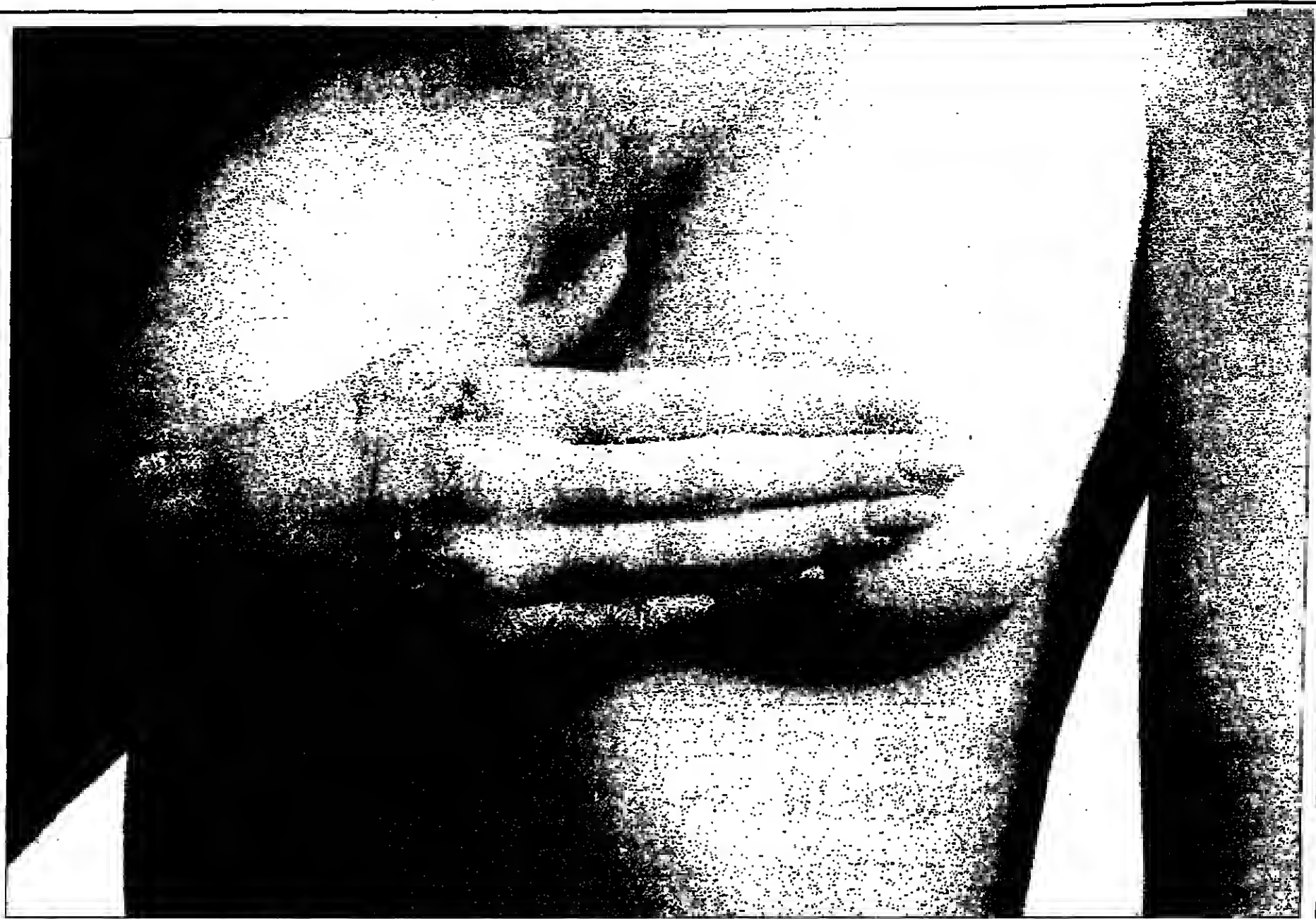
Depression is more common among married women than married men but similar in single women and men. Marriage appears to have a detrimental effect for



women and a protective effect for men. Women may be better at recognising and seeking help; in men, depression may be suppressed until it reveals itself in suicide. They are three times more likely to kill themselves than women.

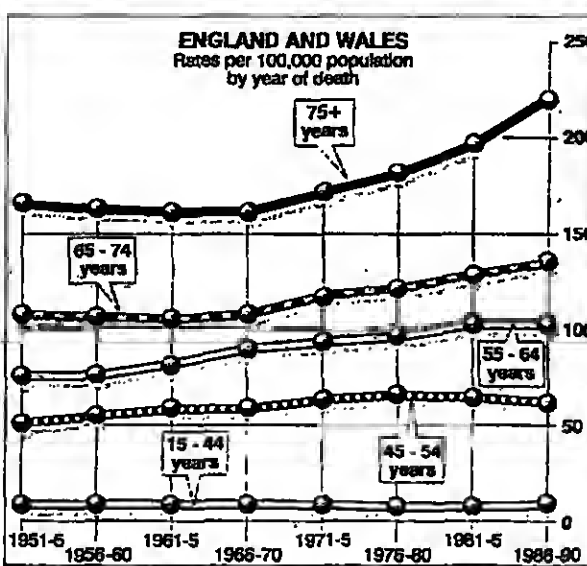
Researchers claim that male doctors are more likely to assume that the problems women consult them for have a psychological origin. However, a recent study showed that female doctors were more likely to prescribe tranquillizers and sleeping pills to women than their male counterparts.

Specialists say women are being dosed with too many psychotropic drugs. Writing in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*, Dr Heather Ashton, of Newcastle upon Tyne University, said: "Tranquillizers have long been grossly overprescribed. It is clear that they do not solve social problems and may often add to them by causing drug dependence."



At risk: the United Kingdom has the highest mortality figure for breast cancer in the world. Each year in the UK, the disease claims the lives of 16,000 women

BREAST CANCER: MORTALITY RATES



The invisible, invincible killer

IN SPITE of hundreds of millions of pounds spent on breast cancer prevention, treatment and research, deaths have risen sharply and the disease kills 16,000 women in the UK each year. In the past 40 years the death rate has risen in every age group, except those under 45, by between a fifth and a third. The incidence of the disease has also risen. In America the risk of breast cancer has doubled since 1940.

Britain has the highest death rate to the world from breast cancer, more than a quarter higher than in the US and almost 50 per cent higher than France's. However, latest results suggest that the new drug tamoxifen is increasing survival chances, especially in post-menopausal women. A review of 40 trials showed that tamoxifen reduced the death rate among those with early

BREAST CANCER

breast cancer by 11 per cent. Of the 26,000 cases diagnosed each year, 20,000 are in the early stages of the disease.

Screening for breast cancer is also expected to reduce the death rate, although it is effective only in women aged between 50 and 64. A 30 per cent reduction in deaths for this age group would translate into only 15,000 lives saved out of 150,000 expected deaths in the next decade. *The Lancet* said recently that researchers should be asking "why this approach is so disappointing".

New surgical techniques that aim to preserve the breast are perceived to be kinder, but they have neither improved

survival rates nor, surprisingly, reduced psycho-social or psycho-sexual problems, possibly because fear of death overwhelms fear of disfigurement.

One of the best hopes for preventing the cancer — by changes in diet — has also faded. The theory that eating fatty food increases the risk appears to have been disproved, according to the American journal *Science*. Big studies in America and The Netherlands have found no link between the disease and fat in the adult diet.

The risk of breast cancer is linked to the length of a woman's reproductive life. The earlier menstruation occurs and the longer the period until the menopause, the higher the risk. Japan, where girls do not reach menarche until 16 or 17, has one of the lowest breast cancer rates in the world.

Hi-tech births suit the doctor

MORE than one in eight babies are born by Caesarean section, twice the number 15 years ago. The fear of litigation if something goes wrong during normal birth is driving doctors to prefer surgery.

In some hospitals, more than a fifth of babies are delivered by Caesarean. Increased monitoring of the foetus's heart is fuelling the trend, according to the Royal College of Midwives. "Routine foetal monitoring is doing more harm than good," Rosemary Jenkins, its director of professional affairs, said. "People see more potential problems when there is monitoring but there is a lot of evidence that it makes no difference to the outcome for the baby."

The growing medicalisation of childbirth and the failure of the maternity services to respond to women's needs have been heavily criticised in reports from the Commons health services select committee and the King's Fund Institute. They said that pregnant women were receiving a poor deal at a critical point in their lives and that hospitals were too inflexible to provide personal care. The demand for home births has come to symbolise "real" choice because of the more personalised service.

Professor Richard Cooke, Professor of Neonatal Medicine at Liverpool University and a member of the King's

CAESAREANS

Fund panel, said women were being subjected to unnecessary interventions such as induction, rupturing of the membranes and foetal monitoring. "It is far from clear whether there are benefits from most of these procedures," he said. Induction rates range from over 50 per cent of all births in some hospitals to under 10 per cent in others, but the outcomes are the same, suggesting that many are unnecessary.

Caesareans are twice as common in America where, in some states it is almost impossible for women to find an obstetrician prepared to deliver their babies. High malpractice premiums have driven many doctors out of maternity care. Even in parts of South America, Caesarean rates are as high as 80 per cent. Women want babies born safely with their doctor in attendance, and the doctor can't guarantee that except by a Caesarean.

Fears that maternity care in Britain could follow the American example are behind the current drive back to a midwife-led, community-based service. Health ministers are to announce an overhaul of maternity services this week in response to demands for less intervention in childbirth and more choice for women.

Ministers are known to be



Sparing the knife: Teresa Hamlin opposes unnecessary surgery in childbirth

sympathetic to calls for national minimum standards to be set to ensure women receive continuity of care and greater choice over where and how they have their babies. An expert advisory group on maternity services set up by the health department last year is to publish recommendations on Friday. It is expected to say that expectant mothers should be allocated a single profes-

sional, usually a midwife, to follow them throughout their pregnancy and ensure that their needs are met.

Meg Goodman, of the Maternity Alliance, said: "Doctors are becoming so out of touch with normal childbirth that they don't trust themselves or the women, which is fuelling the drive to more technological intervention. Instead of starting from the

idea that childbirth is inherently dangerous, if you start with the view that it is a normal process you are more likely to sit on your hands and observe than try to intervene. "A safe birth is essential but it is not the only consideration. Medical interventions cause a great deal of unhappiness. A Caesarean is a major operation which takes a great deal of recovering from."

BIRTH RIGHT: Teresa Hamlin, left, runs the Caesarian Support Group, part of the National Childbirth Trust, which is pressing for a reduction in the use of surgery in childbirth.

After the delivery of her first child by Caesarean section, Ms Hamlin, 33, was determined her next would be born naturally. But women are not always given an easy choice.

"Once you have had a Caesar you are a marked woman," she said. "It can be very difficult to have a normal birth after that. We found at our local hospital that the main reason women were having Caesareans was that they had already had one."

Ms Hamlin's second child was born at home in London. "It went extremely well, but I think I would have had a battle on my hands to be treated in a normal way if I had opted for a hospital delivery."

"Our aim is to make every Caesarian a necessary one and try to reduce the number that are carried out for dubious reasons. It is of great concern to us that women are being put at risk unjustifiably from the surgery and the anaesthetic."

"A small number, probably 5 to 7 per cent, are always going to need a Caesar. But we are heading too far down the road towards the American system of thinking everything can be put right in a hospital."

Men enjoy healthier if shorter life

DISABLED

DISABILITY is increasing among women. Although women live longer than men, men live more of their lives free from disability.

Life expectancy for both sexes is rising but for women, expectation of a healthy life (without becoming disabled or institutionalised) is falling.

A big cause is the brittle bone disease, osteoporosis, which affects one in four women over 70 but only one in 40 men.

Since the mid-1970s, life expectancy at birth for men has risen from 70 to 72.4 years and for women from 76.1 to 78.1. However, expectation of healthy life has fallen for women from 62 to 61.2 years. For men it has risen from 58.3 to 59.5.

The trends suggest that improvements in health in recent years have served more to prolong the lives of disabled people than to prevent disability.

Evidence from other countries also suggests that women suffer more disability than men. Osteoporosis, which results from the loss of calcium linked with hormonal changes following the menopause, is a chief cause. But it is less common in women who stay active.

TOMORROW: STRESS AND SEXUAL HEALTH

هكذا من الاول



Seven gates to paradise: just £1.5 million will buy you this Irish isle and its six sisters, set in Lough Corrib in Connemara, western Ireland (Alan Hamilton writes). The 22-acre main island, Inishanboe, includes a seven-bedroomed Victorian house, formal gardens, plentiful livestock and birds, and a collection of boats. Legend states that Inishanboe, the island of the cow,

was once owned by O'Flaherty, who went off to war and left his wife and children starving, until a white and gold cow emerged from the water and nourished them. For the past 14 years the isle is believed to have been owned by an American millionaire. A spokesman for estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley said: "Given the miracle of the fax machine, there is nothing to

prevent you running a business from them." Have estate agents no soul? Such islands, nesting under the shadow of the Connemara mountains, are for evenings full of limpets' wings. □ Another slice of paradise — this time a tax haven with a helicopter pad and pool — is the tiny 80-acre Channel Island of Brechou, for sale through the same agents for £3.5 million.

Scientists breed a salmon to thrive in the Thames

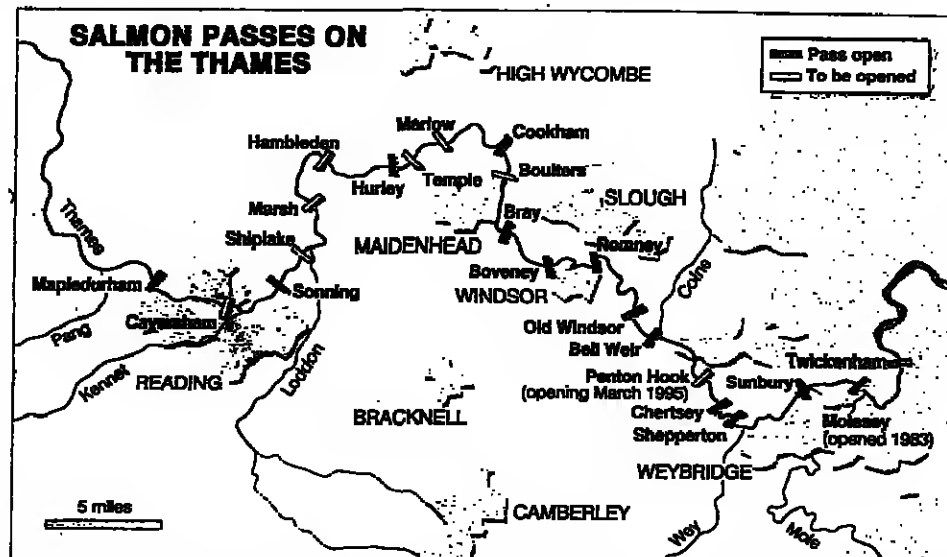
By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT
CORRESPONDENT

THE Thames should soon be teeming with a new strain of salmon more than 140 years after the indigenous variety died out because of pollution, sewage and impassable weirs. Scientists yesterday disclosed they were close to breeding a strain of the king of fish whose genetics match the river's chemistry, range of predators and terrain.

The project has emerged as part of the Thames Salmon Trust's scheme to generate a self-sustaining population of 1,000 salmon by building passes or fish ladders in weirs. The scheme has earmarked 22 weirs, from Teddington upstream to Mapledurham, near Reading.

The passes will allow adult salmon to get into tributaries such as the Wey, Loddon, Kennet and Pangall, which are all potential nursery areas and spawning streams.

Fisheries scientists with the National Rivers Authority in Reading are helping by restocking with up to 180,000 juveniles a year from the



SALMON PASSES ON THE THAMES

Shannon and key salmon rivers in England and Scotland. As each successive generation of adults returns from the open sea to the Thames, the scientists are catching the ones that perform best at traps set at one of the weirs. Eggs from those salmon are being put back in increasing numbers into the breeding programme to generate the Thames strain. David Willis, one of the

authority scientists involved, said: "We are now using fish that have returned to the Thames to supply eggs. Last year 60,000 of the juveniles were from fish that had returned. It is like natural selection. We are trying to develop the first phase of a Thames strain."

Mr Willis said 1993 marked a watershed in the breeding scheme, with the first adults of

Thames parentage returning after up to three years in the seas off Greenland.

In redeveloping a Thames strain, the scientists also hope to generate healthier and more robust adult fish. The research could be bearing fruit. Last week Paul Collins, from Edgware, northwest London, hooked a 17-pounder, the biggest salmon caught in the Thames for 150 years.

Ministers ready to drop school tables at 7 and 14

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION REPORTER

THE government is preparing to abandon school league tables based on national test results for 7 and 14-year-olds. Ministers are expected to accept a recommendation in Sir Ron Dearing's review of the curriculum and testing, published today, to set up an enquiry into the future of performance tables.

The move follows acceptance that this summer's boycott by the three main teaching unions has made publication of comprehensive tables impossible. Only a tiny minority of schools in England and Wales completed the tests at 7 and 14.

Successive education secretaries have said that regular testing and publication of results tables are essential to monitor the performance of pupils and schools. When fully in place, results at 7, 11, 14 and 16 are designed to allow parents to chart progress and make informed choices.

The long-term future of the tables is in doubt after blunt warnings from supporters that Conservative education reforms could collapse next year unless concessions are made to resolve the dispute with teachers.

Donald Naismith, education director in the Conservative-controlled London borough of Wandsworth, has advised ministers to drop tables at 7 and 14 in an attempt to safeguard those at 11 and 16. He said: "I think the league tables for seven and 14-year-olds are finished, although there are different views in the government, Downing Street and the education department which have yet to be resolved."

Mr Naismith, who is close to ministers, said that there

was little evidence of support from parents for tables at 7 and 14. "The government's strategy of keeping faith with its commitment to informed parental choice can be met by publication of national tables at 11 and 16."

Under the Wandsworth plan, tests for 7 and 14-year-olds would continue, with the results reported to parents and made public. This would still allow tables to be constructed by the media and private companies.

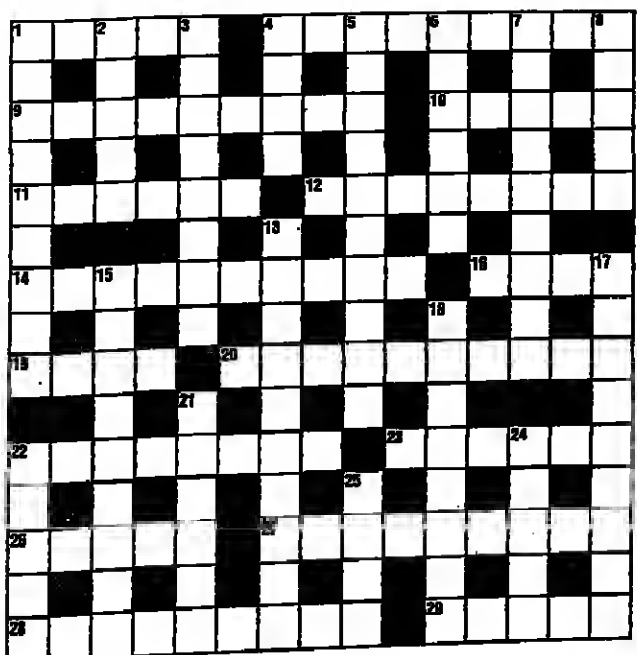
Sir Ron, chairman-designate of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, is expected today to suggest the option of a "value-added" approach that measures the progress pupils make, ensuring that tables reflect the achievement of schools which raise standards from a low starting point. The review will also unveil proposals to trim the national curriculum and reduce the burden of tests by concentrating on English and mathematics.

Pressure for a climbdown on league tables has also come from the Conservative back benches. Sir Malcolm Thornton, MP for Crosby and chairman of the all-party education select committee, said that he would welcome government concessions. He told BBC Radio 4 that he expected to see value-added features built into league tables to satisfy teachers' demands.

The education department said that it would respond to Sir Ron's review today. A spokesman said that reports of concessions on league tables were speculative, but refused to deny them.

Education, page 31

The grid for Saturday's crossword was incorrect in some editions. The correct grid for puzzle 19,297 is below.

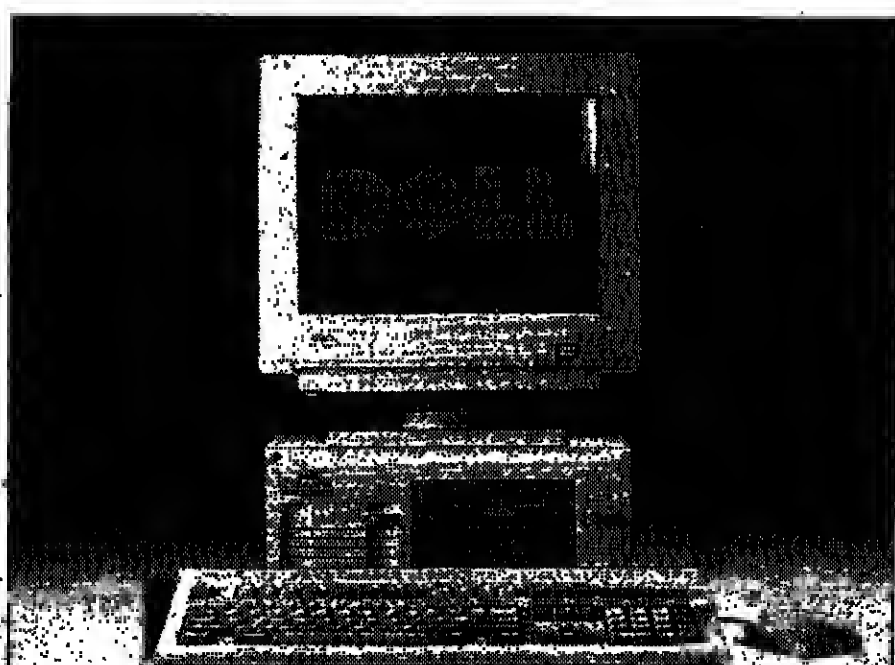


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A vertical strip of a newspaper page from The Times. The top section features a large headline "Condon ch" and "Met to mat". Below this, there is a sub-headline "Contest will suggest" and "what a headle's abo". Further down, there is a small illustration of a horse and rider. The bottom section shows a chessboard with pieces and a caption "Chess to attend".



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6 SPECIAL EDITION GRAPHICS

It's a ZX-perience you can't afford to miss.

[illegible]

هيكذا من الاصل

Condon challenges Met to match target

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

EMERGENCY calls to Scotland Yard will be answered in 15 seconds and officers will be at the scene of an incident within 12 minutes under performance pledges to be launched by Paul Condon, the commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

A policing charter for London will be issued in October. Mr Condon has promised that results will be published by the Yard every three months so that the public can assess the success of the drive for better policing.

Every one of the 28,000 officers in Britain's biggest force is to be issued with cards setting out the performance levels they must achieve, the sort of service they must give the public and their professional standards.

The Yard also promises to speed up replies to correspondence. Officers should answer letters within ten working days.

The latest Scotland Yard annual report shows that 999 calls have increased by 11 per cent in the past year to 1.2

■ The time it takes police to respond to 999 calls is only part of a policy drive being promoted by the commissioner of the Met

million calls. Currently, 75 per cent are answered within 15 seconds.

Providing a 24-hour response is estimated to cost £330 million a year. No figures have been published for response times.

The performance of the police will be monitored and the Yard is to supply figures to stand alongside those of provincial forces on national tables being compiled by the Audit Commission, although the Met is not subject to the commission's scrutiny.

The pledges form part of an assessment of the role of the police. Officers are being told not only to uphold the law to the best of their ability but also to provide a prompt 24-hour service, to be visible on the streets to help the public to feel safe and to be sensitive in their treatment of victims.

An intense campaign is afoot within the Yard and stations throughout London to

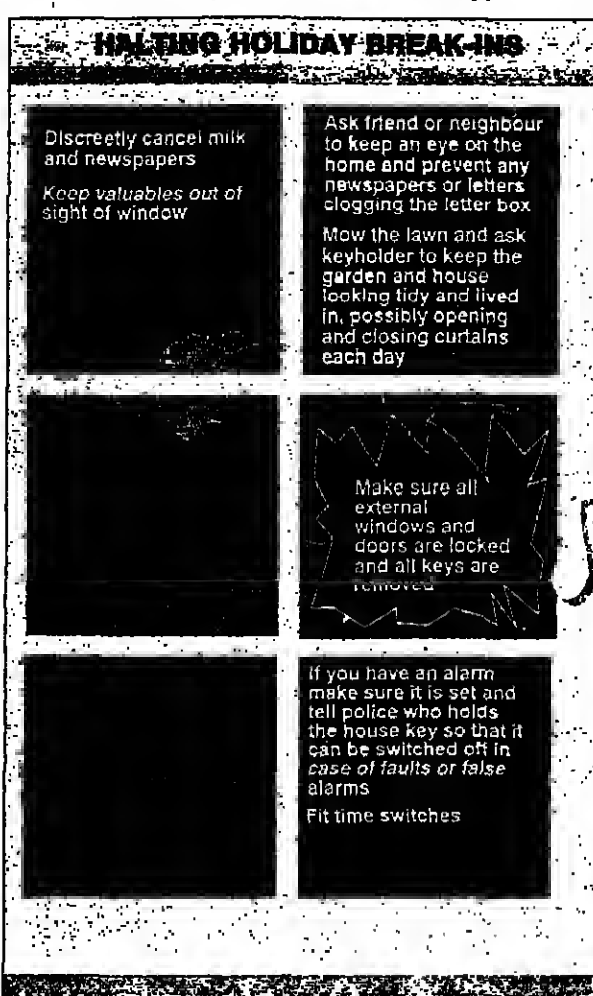
publicise the charter, viewed as one of the commissioner's most important initiatives. In the past two months, the most senior Met officers have been briefed at a series of conferences on putting the charter into action.

Police believe better performance will both justify police budgets to central government and help to win back public confidence. The London charter is in line with efforts by other forces to improve their work and Mr Condon was a leader among senior officers in introducing performance monitoring when he was chief constable of Kent.

Although police say the level of public confidence remains high, they acknowledge that it has slipped in the past decade. In London, surveys in the past year show that 66 per cent of people surveyed say the police do a good or very good job. That is a rise of two percentage points on the previous year.

Crime guides help tourists but neglect Britons

BY STEWART TENDLER



CAMPAIGNS warning foreign drivers and tourists about crime in Britain are being launched this summer, but nobody is running a campaign for millions of Britons leaving their homes.

At the weekend, Kent police began issuing a leaflet in German, French and Italian telling drivers of the risks they run. Police are concerned for them because car crime is not as widespread on the Continent as it is in Britain.

Recent figures have placed Britain third in a league table of car crime, after Spain and Poland but well above The Netherlands, France and other European countries. A spokesman for Kent police said: "Car crime is particularly bad in Britain compared with other European countries. People may not be particularly crime conscious about their car."

Scotland Yard, for the first time, is distributing leaflets in six languages for visitors to London and three other forces are running campaigns for tourists. The Yard leaflets tell visitors that most areas of London are safe but urge them to take care of their belongings.

Details of the campaigns

have been passed to the National Crime Prevention Centre at Stafford, which reports that nobody is running a campaign for Britons leaving their homes to go on holiday.

Chief Supt Graham Wareham, of the centre, said that forces relied on work done by local crime prevention panels, national campaigns throughout the year against burglary and the work of neighbourhood watch schemes.

Burglary rates tend to rise and fall throughout the year and a number of crime prevention officers said that empty homes were not the main summer problem. Many burglaries were committed by opportunist burglars making use of windows and doors left open in hot weather.

As school holidays begin and holiday-makers set off, crime prevention officers say that travellers should make use of the general advice issued by police and the Home Office. The theme is to make sure that their homes never look as though they are unoccupied. The precautions are simple and often inexpensive. Many rely on common sense and alertness.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Glider cuts power lines

A glider pilot was airlifted to hospital with back injuries after hitting power cables and blacking out 280 homes near Basingstoke. Christopher Lytton will have to pay for the electricity repairs. He was in a comfortable condition after the accident, which the CAA is investigating.

House blast

Joseph Fleming, 30, suffered serious burns when an explosion blew out the front of his home in Bradford. The cause is being investigated.

Party killing

John Powell, 33, a father of three from Dagenham, east London, was fatally stabbed at a birthday party.

Rapist strikes

A girl aged 17 was raped in a swimming pool car park in Hoddeston, Hertfordshire.

Bond winners

Premium bond prizes: £100,000, number 28PP 124869, winner from Derby (value of holding £1,060); £50,000, 30PL 769491, Scarborough (£1,350); £25,000, 65PF 399671, West Midlands (£175).

Contest will suggest what a beadle's about

BY OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A COMPETITION to find the best way of bringing parish constables back to rural Britain will be launched today by Michael Howard, the home secretary.

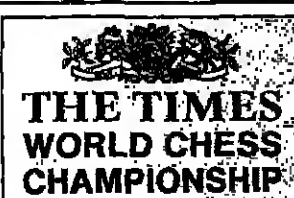
Mr Howard and his officials believe constables based on the ancient office of parish beadle or the centurions of Jersey, which still exist, could fill the gap made by withdrawing regular officers from rural posts. There is also ministerial concern at reports of increasing vigilantism.

Mr Howard took up the idea after it was mooted in *Country Life*. Clive Aslet, the editor, will sit with a team of advisers, including present and former police leaders, to judge suggestions on the duties, powers, title, uniform and selection of parish constables,

and their relationship with police and community.

Proposals must reach the Home Office by September 17. The Home Office suggests individuals should consult their parish councils before putting forward proposals and local authority associations have been asked for comments.

Announcing the competition, Mr Howard said that the constables could play a significant role in linking police and public and focusing crime prevention, for example by organising neighbourhood watch projects. He envisages part-time officers without powers of arrest who would pass on to regular officers the day-to-day intelligence and local knowledge that village policemen used to develop.



BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

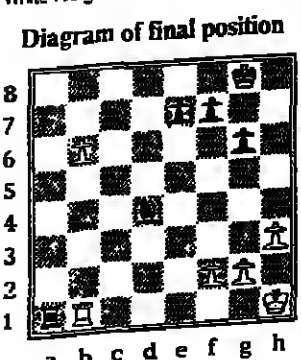
British Championship

THE British Championship, held in the Sports Hall of the University of Dundee, starts today. For further information ring the championship chess office on 0352 204287. Here is a recent win by the reigning champion, Julian Hodgson, showing his excellent form. Hodgson has won the British Championship for the past two years and is hot favourite for a hat-trick. Spectators are welcome to attend the event.

White: Espig
Black: Hodgson
Zillertal, Austria 1993

Pirc Defence

1 Nf3 g6
2 d4 Bg7
3 e4 d6
4 Nc3 Nf6
5 h3 c5
6 d5 O-O
7 Be2 b5
8 e5 dxe5
9 Bxb5 Bb7
10 Bg5 Nxd5
11 Nd2 h6
12 Nxe4 Nf4
13 c4 c5
14 Nxc5 hxg5
15 Nxb7 Qxb7
16 Qb3 Qxb7
17 Qxb4 a6
18 O-O Nc6
19 Oc5 a5
20 cxb5 Rf8
21 a4 Nc2+
22 Qxg5 Bxb2
23 Kx1 Bf6
24 Re1 Nc3
25 Qc3 Nxb4
26 Na4 Nxb4
27 Qxe4 Qxe4
28 Rxe4 Rf4
29 Rxd4 Bxd4
30 Rb1 Rxe4
31 b6 Ra1
White resigns



Marquess to attend world championship
The Marquess of Bath is an enthusiastic and well-informed chess player. He is

completing his autobiography in the South of France, and intends to return to Britain to see part of *The Times* World Chess Championship between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short. The Marquess, who met Kasparov at the champion's charity display at Simpson's-in-the-Strand in February, said: "The match should be fascinating. I shall certainly be coming, probably for the second half."

Readers' games

I have been deluged with interesting games played by Times readers and sent to me for possible inclusion in this column. From now on, I will be awarding a monthly prize of a chess book for the best game submitted, so keep them coming. Send your efforts to me, c/o Championship Chess, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. Today's game is from Dan Mayers.

White: Mayers

Black: Filipowicz

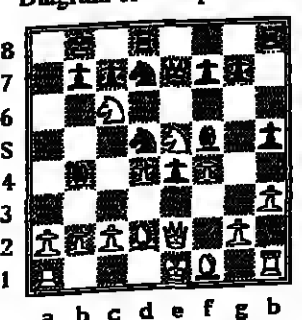
Lloyds Bank Masters

London 1981

King's Gambit

1 e4 e5
2 f4 exf4
3 Nf3 Nf6
4 Nc3 Bc5
5 O-O Qd6
6 Bb5 Nbd7
7 Nbd2 Bb4
8 Ne5 Qe7
9 Bc4 O-O
10 Bb5 Nc5
11 Nc3 Bc5
12 Nxe4 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Championship update

For attractive travel packages from around the country to the Kasparov v Short match, which starts on September 7 at the Savoy Theatre in London, ring Travelcoast on 081 744 9494.

Winning Move, page 36

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Christopher back on trail of peace as truce holds

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE MIDDLE East moved away from military confrontation at the weekend, as a ceasefire took hold in southern Lebanon, and attention focused on American peacemaking efforts this week in the region by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State.

As Mr Christopher set off from Washington yesterday for his crucial visit to revive peace talks between Israel and its Arab neighbours, a semblance of normality returned to the Lebanese-Israeli border region, where a truce brokered by the Americans appeared to be holding.

However, Hezbollah said it had not agreed to stop firing rockets into Israel and it remained an option to respond to Israeli attacks. Shaikh Hassan Nasrallah, the Hezbollah leader, said no one could agree a comprehensive ceasefire with Israel and "in the matter of rocket attacks there is no ceasefire or agreement".

Nevertheless in northern Israel civilian life, halted during last week's bombardment of northern Galilee by pro-Iranian Hezbollah fighters, resumed as shops and offices reopened for the first time in seven days. Israel also made a point of publicly withdrawing men and equipment from its "security zone" inside the Lebanese border as a signal that its week-long blitz, Operation Accountability, was over. "We have come home," shouted a jubilant soldier as his convoy of 50 tanks and about 150 troops moved back across the border.

Even a mortar attack by Hezbollah fighters on a position manned by Israel's allies, the South Lebanon Army (SLA), failed to provoke a response. "It is clear that they [Hezbollah] will continue to attack the security zone, they

will try to take over SLA strong points and also to attack Israeli patrols inside the area," said Lieutenant General Ehud Barak, the Israeli chief of staff. In contradiction of what Shaikh Nasrallah said, he added: "The fight will happen, but it will happen in the security zone and will not be translated into Katyusha rockets fired into Israeli civilian settlements."

Israel's coalition government, which last week voted to launch the massive artillery barrage on more than 70 southern Lebanese towns and villages, yesterday predicted that the ceasefire, negotiated mainly with Damascus and Beirut, could herald a breakthrough in Israel's negotiations with Syria on a land for peace agreement.

Mr Christopher will visit Egypt, Israel, Syria and Jordan in an attempt to resuscitate the Middle East peace process. Had the fighting continued, his chances were practically nil, but even with a ceasefire they are slim. After 21 months the Arab-Israeli talks have made negligible progress and are virtually moribund.

Mr Christopher's departure was delayed by two days as he worked intensively behind the scenes to end the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon, finally achieving his goal in a 2am telephone call to Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, on Saturday.

Having cut short a visit to Asia and returned to Washington last Wednesday, Mr Christopher made calls to Mr Rabin, to Farouk al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, and to Rafik al-Hariri, the Lebanese prime minister. The Secretary of State also had indirect communication with the Iranian authorities, the chief sponsor of Hezbollah.

Saddam hounds Shias to deadly last refuge



A courageous people who rose against the Iraqi dictator are bombarded daily, reports Tom Rhodes from Hemmet

THE refugee camp at Hemmet appears like some shanty town from the middle of Hour Alazim, the Great Marsh which acts as a seemingly idyllic buffer between southern Iran and Iraq. Here, more than 4,000 Iraqi Shias, mostly marsh Arabs who have arrived in the past three weeks, are seeking sanctuary from the campaign of terror by President Saddam Hussein.

It is the first time in more than 6,000 years that the proud people of the Mehdam have left the marshes of southern Iraq. They are the descendants of the ancient Sumerians and Babylonians. The sudden exodus spells almost certain extinction for a civilisation that has remained almost untouched for centuries.

The first impression of Hemmet is the heat. By midday the temperature reaches a searing and humid 60C (140F). Even for a people whose survival has been conditional upon living in such hardy conditions, the hundreds of reed huts lining both sides of the road offer scant protection from the sun. Prayer mats and blankets are flung on top of the flimsy

structures as further shields, but they cannot compare to the carefully constructed homes they have left behind in the marshes.

At first it seems that the Shias have adapted well to their new surroundings. Children swim in the vast reeded lakes to either side, mothers cook bread in traditional *tannor* clay ovens and men paddle canoes in search of fish. The misty smoke from the evening fires against the startlingly beautiful landscape, and the sunlight highlighting the saturnine faces of the tribesmen, are what any reader of Wilfred Thesiger, the explorer, would wish to see.

Inside each hut, however, lurks the smell of disease. Dysentery and typhoid are rife and five cases of cholera have been reported. An average of three children die from diarrhoea daily. As the number of marsh Arabs increases, that figure is certain to increase.

These people are the forgotten victims of the Gulf war. While the West has offered some security to the Kurds of northern Iraq, Saddam's equally virulent attack against the southern Shias has passed largely unnoticed. After the Iraqi army was forced out of Kuwait in March 1991, the marsh Arabs were among tens of thousands of Shias who heeded President Bush's call to arms. They attacked garrisons, opened prisons, and waited in vain for Western help that never materialised.

In the bloody aftermath of the uprising in southern Iraq, hundreds of thousands of people fled to the marshlands which provided a refuge from the wrath of Saddam. He has never forgiven or forgotten the insurrections and now further blames the marsh Arabs for concealing enemies of the state. By using large earthen dykes to divert the tributaries of the Tigris



Marsh squalor: a Shia family washing cooking utensils and clothes. Their water supplies now are threatened by disease



and Euphrates, the Iraqi leader has almost entirely staunched the usual flow of water which kept the unique ecosystem of the marshlands alive. According to the refugees, a large triangle of land

between al-Amarah and al-Qurnah—at the confluence of the two great rivers—and Nasryyah is now all but dry, and any water that does remain has apparently been poisoned. Every night Iraqi

guns pound the marshes, killing large numbers and terrifying thousands.

Three miles to the north-west across the marshes from Hemmet, Iraqi soldiers can be seen building a dyke to further divert the water from al-Amarah and, late in the afternoon when the work appears to have stopped, the guns sound once more. First it is heavy artillery, then a barrage of anti-aircraft fire which, the marsh people say, is aimed at the water as a scare tactic. It is proof, if it were ever needed, that the United Nations no-fly zone above the skies of southern Iraq, far from saving the

Shias, has actually induced a prolonged ground offensive against them.

Eight months ago, Sikina Naji was a healthy 14-year-old girl. She loved the traditional style of life in the marshes, Naji Hindijedua, her father, said. One night, however, the Iraqi soldiers left their calling card: a shell that destroyed their home in the marshes near Basra. Since that day, Sikina has not spoken a word. "We are escaping certain death by migrating. Otherwise Saddam will kill us," her father declared.

Letters, page 15



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Post-it

Notes

3M Innovation.

هكذا من الاصل

Belgium mourns loss of quiet force for national unity

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

Belgium is in mourning for King Baudouin, Europe's longest-serving monarch, who died of a heart attack, aged 62, while on holiday at Motril in Spain at 9.30pm on Saturday.

Immediately after his death was announced by the office of Jean-Luc Dehaene, the prime minister, in the early hours of yesterday morning, the country came to a standstill, with nightclubs and bars closing. By dawn the gates of the Royal Palace in Brussels were adorned with wreaths, and crowds gathered throughout the day.

King Baudouin, who came to the throne on his 21st birthday on July 17, 1951, was a well-respected though inconspicuous monarch. His life was marked by the early death of his mother Astrid in 1932, the rejection of his father Leopold by the Belgian people after the war, and the three miscarriages of his Spanish wife, Queen Fabiola.

He worked tirelessly for the continued union of his divided country. He and the queen set up children's trusts and helped bring the royal family closer to the people. His most likely successor is his bachelor nephew Prince Philippe, 33. But some commentators believe the prince's father, Prince Albert of Liege, 59, may become regent while his inexperienced son finds his feet on the international stage. The prince's younger sister, Astrid, could also succeed.

Prince Albert, a naval officer, believes he is too old to become king. Prince Philippe, however, is almost painfully shy and blushes when under pressure. "He is not a media star, like Princess Stephanie

With the passing of a king whose life was marked by tragedy, Belgium confronts the need to find a successor with the same ability to hold a divided nation together

[of Monaco], said Jo Gerard, a Belgian royal historian.

King Baudouin had been in poor health for some years. In 1991 he underwent successful surgery for cancer of the prostate. Six months later he had a heart by-pass operation in Paris. He made his last public appearance on Belgium's national day 12 days ago, looking tanned and healthy as the country's military might rumbled past the palace. He did not, however, appear at the fireworks display later.

Yesterday Mr Dehaene called an emergency meeting of his cabinet before leaving for Spain with Melchior Wathelet, a deputy prime minister. King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophie of Spain, close friends of King Baudouin and his wife, cut short their holiday in Palma to accompany the cortege to Granada airport. A Belgian air force jet flew the king's body home last night and funeral arrangements are being discussed.

Tributes to "Le Roi Triste", as he was known to his people, flooded in yesterday. President Mitterrand of France said he was "painfully touched" by King Baudouin's death, and the Pope said he had been "an exemplary monarch and fervent Christian". Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, said: "He was the symbol of Belgian unity, which he worked passionately, discreetly but very influentially to preserve."

Under the Belgian constitution the king's successor should take his formal oath before a joint session of the two chambers of parliament within ten days. Whoever succeeds will have immense difficulty winning the respect that helped King Baudouin knit Wallonia and Flanders together.

As federalism takes hold in Belgium, the power of the monarchy is waning. A constitutional change approved this year means that the monarch will not have the right to block the appointment of regional ministers, who are now being given responsibilities formally held at national level.

Leading article, page 15
Obituary, page 17



Spear of destiny: King Mutebi II addresses the Bagandas at his coronation

King returns to sacred drumbeat

FROM SAM KILEY IN BUDO, UGANDA

THOUSANDS of tiny lamps pricked the pre-dawn darkness on Budo Hill as 20,000 Bagandans celebrated the weekend coronation of their new king and the restoration of the Bugandan monarchy.

As kabaka Ronald Mutebi II beat the kyeababon, the sacred drum, which is said to be the same drum played by the founder of the dynasty 36 generations ago, the great crowd of his subjects roared and ululated their delight.

President Museveni slept through much of the later ceremonies presided over by religious leaders. "We don't mind. Museveni can rule Uganda for the rest of his life. He has given us back our souls," said Faustin Ssemu. The restoration of Uganda's five monarchies as cultural and ceremonial symbols is seen as a shrewd step by Mr Museveni as it gives a peaceful outlet for the nationalism that has so often led to war in Africa.

"It is a pity that the South Africans could not be here today," said one Western

ambassador watching the coronation. "It is as if the last 30 years of African history do not exist for them. Both the ANC and the National Party are so anxious to do away with the homeland and the grand symbols of apartheid, they do not realise that in fact some form of 'separate development' may be the answer."

"That is the way the bright people in the rest of the continent are thinking," said a Bagandan prince involved in discussions over a new constitution for Uganda. The government has ruled out political activity by Uganda's kings, but many see the restoration of the monarchies as the first step in turning Uganda into a federation, with state boundaries based on the old kingdoms.

With the end of colonial rule in Africa fledgling administrations were left to cope with the many tribes or ethnic nations inside their borders. The result has been almost continuous conflict and civil war for 30 years



Regal host: King Baudouin with the Queen during a private visit to his estate at Clermont in 1966

Keating tries to drive out Queen

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PAUL Keating, the Australian prime minister, who is leading the campaign to make his country a republic, says that the British monarchy is like a horse and cart which should be traded in for something better. He added, however, that he was also one of the Queen's countless admirers in Australia.

In the country town of Corowa, on the border of Victoria and New South Wales, where Australia's constitution was developed in 1893, Mr Keating rejected the pro-monarchy argument that "if it ain't broke, don't fix it", saying: "We didn't throw out the horse and cart because they were broke. We abandoned them. We affectionately and gracefully retired them when they became obsolete. We took a considered decision to trade up to something that would serve us better."

Mr Keating began arguing for the removal of the Queen as Australia's head of state by 2001 shortly after he became prime minister in late 1991. He has since set up a task force to promote the change. He said he was not against the Queen personally. "I count myself among her countless Australian admirers," he said. "But the Queen of Australia is not Australian and, however conscientiously and skilfully she performs the role of Australian head of state, she cannot symbolise or express our Australianness."

Mr Keating, who hopes to meet the Queen again when

he is in Europe next month to promote Sydney's bid to host the 2000 Olympic Games, also said he was not opposed to Britain or the "British monarchy". But, he added, the monarchy "is a hereditary British institution in the multi-cultural post-imperial world in which we live and, with all the regional imperatives now facing us, it no longer constitutes an appropriate Australian head of state."

He told guests assembled to celebrate the centenary of the constitutional conference: "I like Britain very much." He added that he remained "a passionate advocate of things British", particularly its parliament. But, he said, some of Australia's political innovations, such as the secret ballot and the vote for women, had occurred before such reforms in Britain.

Some of the 400 guests included descendants of the delegates at the 1893 conference. Many of them are also staunch monarchists in a strongly conservative rural constituency. As he arrived at the venue, Mr Keating was greeted by a group of protesters calling on him to stop promoting a republic.

In his speech he praised the founding fathers for their ideals in organising the 1893 conference, but said the constitution which flowed from it was, a century later, an uninspiring document, overly complex, legalistic and anachronistic.

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Why appeasement must not have another chance

AS I AM recording this in my office in New York, Sarajevo is in imminent danger of falling, negotiations are going on in Geneva, and America is on the verge of some kind of military gesture.

Conditions in Sarajevo are worse than at any time during the 16-month siege. The water supply is contaminated. The first cases of dysentery have been reported and hepatitis has increased. There is imminent danger of epidemic disease. I follow the situation in Sarajevo particularly closely because my foundation has been active there. The only clean water that is available has been installed and maintained by us. It consists of two deep wells from which water is pumped to taps out of sight of snipers, though unfortunately not out of artillery range.

Some of the other enclaves of eastern Bosnia are even worse off than Sarajevo, and central Bosnia, which had been relatively stable, is now destabilised by the influx of refugees and by fighting between Serbs, Muslims and Croats. We are heading into a human catastrophe of the first magnitude. It does not quite compare with the Holocaust but, in one respect, it is worse. We did go to war with Germany, whereas in Bosnia we are standing idly by.

The world does not seem to appreciate what is at stake. We are aware of the human suffering, we are outraged at the atrocities, we are humiliated by the inability of the United Nations and the European Community to prevent violence. But we do not quite understand the implications of our failure to intervene militarily. If we did, then we would have intervened long ago.

In Bosnia, we have witnessed unspeakable brutality committed in the name of a doctrine, the

George Soros, the international financier, makes a powerful case for Western military intervention in the Balkans even at this late stage, arguing that tolerating the doctrine of the 'ethnically cleansed' state marks the end of civilisation

doctrine of the ethnic state. The ethnic state leaves no room for people with different ethnic identities and "ethnic cleansing" can turn ethnic identity into a matter of life and death. If the doctrine prevails, it is the end of our civilisation as we know it. I realise these are large words, but I believe they are justified.

The civilised world has been surprisingly complacent. The Balkans have been painted as some

ber the appeasement at Munich. In Bosnia, Britain has played a particularly insidious role. I am not sure whether or not it was by design, but by putting a peace-keeping force on the ground it was able to prevent America from using air power on the rare occasion when it was ready to. Not that Washington was all that eager to follow through. The image of Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, wringing his hands and saying "We have done what we could," will go down in history just as Chamberlain's umbrella did.

Our ability to suffer humiliation and to sustain moral outrage has its limits. I set up a humanitarian foundation for Bosnia as an expression of my outrage and in the hope of goading leaders of the civilised world to take a firmer position. I have become deeply involved. But lately I have found myself focusing on other things and avoiding having to deal with Bosnia. It was too painful. I notice a similar tendency among policy-makers and the media.

What is to be done now? We must take a stand even at this late stage. I propose lifting the siege of Sarajevo. The Serb roadblock that separates the airport from the town cannot be defended. The threat of military action would be sufficient to remove it. The bombardment of Sarajevo could be stopped by issuing an ultimatum demanding the withdrawal of artillery within 24 hours. I was

told at a Pentagon briefing that we know where virtually every one of the 1,400 pieces of artillery in Bosnia is located and we could take out most of them in one stroke. Getting rid of the snipers could be left to the Bosnian army.

I realise Britain has strenuously opposed the use of air power because it would endanger ground troops. Let us get the facts right. British troops are nowhere where they could be directly threatened by the Serbs. Only when escorting convoys do they come into contact with the Serbs and they have done precious little of that lately. This is merely an excuse for inaction.

I also realise that the American military is keen to stay out of Bosnia. The lesson from the Gulf war and Vietnam is that military action should be confined to situations where we have a clear objective, we can bring overwhelming force to bear, and we can accomplish our goal with minimal loss of life. Incremental engagement is to be avoided at all costs. Bosnia is disqualified on all these grounds. General Colin Powell told me that he is ready to follow orders provided President Clinton defines his objectives clearly.

The objective is clear: we must prevent the creation of a greater Serbia and a greater Croatia. If we agree to the principle of the ethnic state and to the enlargement of Serbia and Croatia by force, all hell will break loose. Renewed fighting between Croatia and Serbia becomes almost inevitable because Croatia cannot give up its Serb-dominated part, Krajina, without a fight it would cut the country in two. Kosovo and Macedonia are at high risk. The objective in Bosnia is not to achieve victory but to prevent the



Soros: "Our ability to sustain moral outrage has limits"

propose that the principle of open society — where no dogma has a monopoly, where the individual is not at the mercy of the state, where minorities and minority opinions are respected — ought to be accepted as the basis of the new world order and the creation and preservation of open societies ought to be recognised as the prime objective of foreign policy.

This idea is very far removed from current thinking. Whether an open or a closed society prevails can be a matter of life or death. I learned that at an early age when I nearly ended up in a gas chamber because of my ethnic origin.

Once we recognise the principle of open society as the prime objective of foreign policy, we would know better what to do going forward. First, we would persevere with the prosecution of war crimes. There is enough evidence to hand down indictments, and if we maintain the pressure we might be able to bring some of the culprits to trial.

Second, we would fill the vacuum left by the Soviet collapse. We would re-establish a credible deterrent without it violence is bound to spread.

But deterrence is not enough. We must also provide a constructive alternative to ethnic strife. I first proposed a new kind of Marshall Plan in 1988, at a conference in Potsdam, but I was laughed out of court. Now that unemployment is rampant right through Europe, it may be time to think about it again. But first things first: let's deal with Bosnia while it is still there.

This is an edited extract from last night's *Opinions* programme produced by Open Media for Channel 4.

Nato urged to halt Serb advance on Sarajevo

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN GENEVA

THE United States has requested a Nato meeting in Brussels today to seek the alliance's support for air strikes against Serb positions to prevent the imminent "strangulation" of Sarajevo.

The move came as Bosnia's Muslims pulled back from the peace deal announced on Friday, shaking initial euphoria about imminent peace in the republic.

President Clinton approved the bombing plan at a weekend meeting with his advisers. The US is expected to press the case for Western military intervention much harder than it did last spring when, half-heartedly and unsuccessfully, it sought European approval for arming the Muslims.

US intelligence reports suggest the Serbs are in a position to take the Bosnian capital, with its 380,000 inhabitants, and defeat Muslim forces. The administration fears a humanitarian and political disaster if that happens, with a torrent of domestic and international criticism. It also be-

lieves that the credibility of Nato and the United Nations is at stake.

In Geneva yesterday, some members of the Muslim-led multi-ethnic presidency said they had been tricked into the agreement on the Bosnian constitution, in a rush by the peace negotiators to announce progress at the talks.

President Izetbegovic said he was reserving his agreement while he sought legal advice about the status of a union of republics, as proposed by Lord Owen and Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, the UN and European Community negotiators.

On Friday, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said "not one word" of the constitutional deal effectively dividing the former Yugoslav republic along ethnic lines, had not been agreed.

However, on Saturday, Mr Izetbegovic wrote to Lord Owen and Mr Stoltenberg saying: "Yesterday I gave my preliminary approval of the draft ... my approval was



Resting between engagements: a soldier of the predominantly Muslim Bosnian army relaxing with a book in a frontline Sarajevo bunker after a ceasefire was signed

given upon your statement that the agreement does not question the status of the State for a future union and ... its membership of the United Nations". He went on: "I remain reserved regarding the wording."

The presidency and opposition politicians in the Bosnian

government say they came to Geneva on the understanding that there would be no loss of sovereignty or division of Bosnia on ethnic lines. The president was furious with the peace negotiators at the weekend, feeling that Friday's much-trumpeted deal undermines the statehood of Bosnia.

In his letter, Mr Izetbegovic

said: "I have been warned this morning by experts in international law that article 1 of the agreement, as it is, leaves doubts relating to the legal status of the union of the republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Article 1 relates to the effective division of the republic into Muslim, Serb and Croat regions. The Bosni-

an presidency delegation now feels damned if it agrees to a deal and damned if it does not. They say the agreement effectively legitimises ethnic cleansing and rewards aggression, but that they will be blamed for a continuation of the war if they pull out of negotiations.

Though Britain and France still have reservations over

operational issues, the US last week secured their broad backing for a plan that puts the widest possible interpretation on two UN resolutions authorising "force to protect peacekeepers and relief operations."

In Madrid, Julian Garcia Vargas, the Spanish defence minister, said he would sup-

port selective air strikes in Bosnia to protect civilians. UN peacekeeping troops and, in particular, the city of Sarajevo. "We must take action to ensure UN troops are safe," he said, referring to an artillery attack on the Spanish base in Jablanica on Friday when one soldier was killed and 17 were injured.

Deceit devours diplomacy in Bosnia's last rites

If today's Nato meeting and the high-level policy reviews in London, Paris and Washington decide to launch military strikes against mainly Serb forces around Sarajevo, it would mark a significant U-turn on Western policy towards the former Yugoslavia.

For almost two years, the West's undeclared policy has been "to hasten with extreme slowness", as one senior source said. That meant being seen to be involved, but doing everything to avoid becoming engaged in military action, bar protection of humanitarian operations.

Countries such as Britain made what one senior official called their "cold and rational" calculation as long ago as the middle of 1991 and stuck to it. This is confirmed by interviews with diplomats, government officials and negotiators from Europe and the UN.

The sources confirm that throughout the Bosnia and Croatia wars the strategy has been lowest-risk and minimalist. Unity within the EC, Nato and the UN mattered above all else, even if it meant lowest-common-denominator diplomacy with no chance of ending the war, such as the first diluted sanctions a year ago.

Hope has been more in evidence than a strategy to end the killing. "Ministers looked for the cheapest and safest solution, and that is what happened in the former Yugoslavia," one official said. "Humanitarian problems became the driver because not many people would be put at risk," confided another.

The West, fearing the quagmire of civil war, has been a paper tiger, never intending to bare its teeth and use military force in Bosnia. Its public duplicity led to the defeat of diplomacy, Nik Gowing writes

If measured by the criteria which the policy set itself, the West did not bungle. Casualties have been light. Many critics despise this unpunctuated policy of "minimal engagement". But it explains the West's caution: the reluctance to pursue sanctions against Serbia, the coolness towards the "safe area" concept for Muslims, and the way no official could ever adequately explain how the West would force Bosnian Serb troops to "roll back".

The probable error of politicians and diplomats was never to come clean on their "cold and rational" calculation. Yet had they done so, they would have signalled to the warring parties much earlier that the West was a paper tiger — itself a tactical error.

By regularly debating action in the EC, UN, Nato and Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, then issuing statements of "outrage" or "concern", governments knowingly led public opinion to believe there was a determination to engineer a moral peace in Bosnia. That, after all, was the clear and very public commitment from the London conference last August.

A few weeks later, the commitment was secretly put to the test. Last October, Europe and the United States realised that the Bosnian Serbs had no intention of honouring their London commitment to withdraw from territory seized. The Bush administration secretly proposed the use of force.

The idea foundered. Neither Britain nor France wanted their troops in the UN protection forces endangered by Serb reprisals if the Americans launched air attacks.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, confirmed that. "All the way through ... it's been perfectly clear to me there was no government — no government — which was willing to send in troops to fight their way into an imposed solution. Short of that everything has been uncertain and half measures."

The policy has not changed. Despite the talking-up of air cover, there is, as yet, still no political will to take on the Bosnian Serbs. General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander, said he never feared intervention.

The West's united refusal to use force as a weapon of diplomatic bluff also killed the Vance-Owen

peace plan. Officials have now revealed that, despite their support in public, in private Western governments believed as early as last February that the Vance-Owen plan was already effectively dead.

Even Lord Owen, the EC mediator, says he gave his plan little chance of working. "The real criticism of the Vance-Owen plan which I would have made if I had been outside was that it was too idealistic: it expected too big a roll-back of an army that had not been defeated. In a sense it was an ideal solution."

Lord Owen does not complain that he was misled by Western governments when he took over from Lord Carrington in August 1992. "I discovered very soon into the job ... that there was absolutely no case in which they would involve



Mladic: never feared Western intervention

themselves in a military on-the-ground force."

The "pretence" of the Vance-Owen plan was finally shattered by a chance off-the-record remark from the US State Department published by *The New York Times* on May 21. "US and Russia agree on strategy accepting Serbian gains for now," said the headline. The Serbs then knew they could keep what their troops had been fighting for. The trouble is, it was never agreed.

"This is a totally inaccurate quotation of what I said and thought," Andrei Koryzev, the Russian foreign minister, said. "From the beginning I was insisting on a Serbian roll-back." Mr Koryzev conceded he might have been "bounced" by the leak into appearing to back an American effort to kill the Vance-Owen plan.

Conspiracy or cock-up? Certainly the joint action plan agreed by America, Britain, France, Russia and Spain the next day did not confirm acceptance of Serb gains. Yet Lord Owen said that by then the damage was "quite devastating". The *New York Times* article finally killed the West's efforts to negotiate a moral and just peace for Bosnia on the basis of the London principles.

As the West watches, Serb and Croat divide Bosnia on their terms. Deceit has defeated diplomacy.

Deceit and Diplomacy will be presented by Nik Gowing, diplomatic editor of *Channel Four News*, on Channel 4 at 9.15pm tonight.

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حسبكم من الاصل

Armed gang kills 35 in South African township

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN JOHANNESBURG

AT LEAST 35 residents of Tembisa township on the outskirts of Johannesburg have died in the worst massacre since the Boipatong killings of last year. The total is still rising.

Evidence still lay in the dusty streets of the town yesterday morning as the corpses of a family, including a baby girl, lay where they fell, riddled with bullets. Houses were scorched by petrol bombs, doors and windows were shattered and many were splattered with blood. Bloodstains soaked into the winter-dry dirt roads.

Tembisa, meaning "The Promised Land", lies on the eastern Witwatersrand, which has seen the worst bloodshed of recent months. The killings began, according to police and the African National Congress, when a criminal gang, who use a migrant hostel as a haven, attacked people living near by. The locals responded by capturing a gang member and killing him. The gang retreated to the hostel, and gathered

The death toll from political violence in South Africa continues to rise. Again, the roles of politicians and the security forces are being brought into question

reinforcements from among the Zulu workers living there. A 200-strong mob erupted from the hostel and went on the rampage, firing at random, according to Captain Wickus Weber, a police spokesman. They set fire to vehicles, threw petrol bombs at houses and fired indiscriminately at passing cars. One resident said the night "exploded" when the armed attackers rushed into a section populated by ANC supporters, adding that the skyline was red from the blaze of burning houses and vehicles.

Journalists trying to visit the hostel yesterday came under sniper fire. Later, inside the hostel, residents said that they had come under fire on Saturday night and were simply retaliating. "One cannot just lie down because then they will kill you," a resident said. The incident has its roots in

the struggle for political influence between the ANC and the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party, which draws much of its strength from the hostels, but feelings between the hostel and the township have been additionally tense since May when Clement Jonas, the gang leader, was sprayed with gunfire as he drove through the streets. After he was buried, residents dug his body up and burnt it.

Police raided two hostels yesterday morning where they seized assault rifles, handguns and arrested three men. An ANC statement alleged that witnesses saw the attackers climbing into police armoured personnel carriers and being driven to safety. The police deny any involvement.

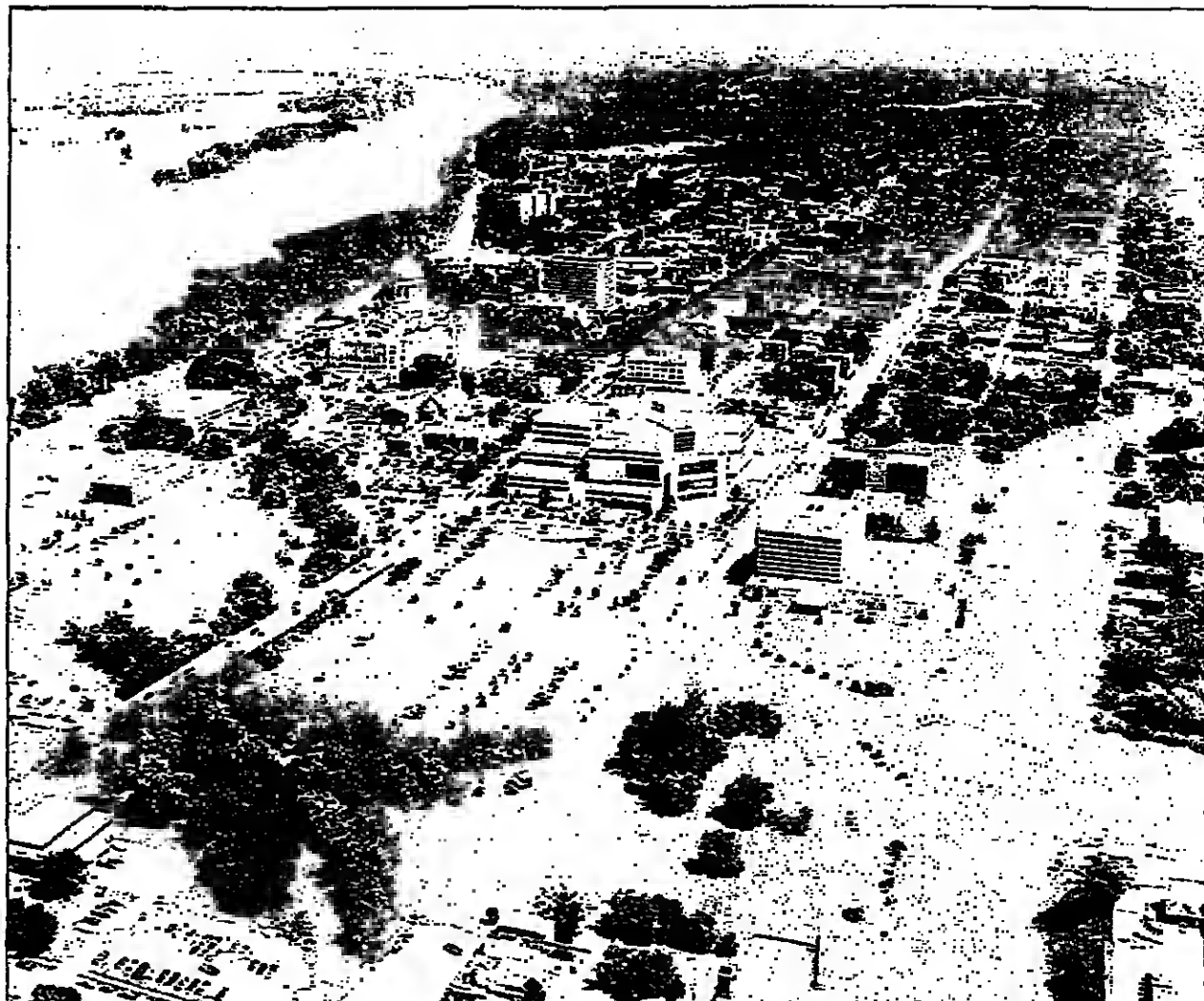
Nelson Mandela, the ANC president, who is on a tour of the Far East, said the killings showed that the National party

government "does not take the deaths of black people seriously". Mr Mandela called again for joint political control of the security forces.

The ANC leader, who is Taiwan, has been asking the Republic of China government for election funds. The visit is part of a series of fund-raising tours. His next stop is Malaysia. While in America, he asked for money, and in Britain the ANC is taking out newspaper advertisements.

President de Klerk, returning from a two-day visit to Zambia yesterday, expressed his horror and outrage, saying that political leaders had a key role to play in disciplining their followers. In Lusaka, President Chiluba, who turned the occasion into a state visit, said: "We wanted President de Klerk to know that we appreciate what he has done in dismantling apartheid. We wanted to encourage this process."

In Cape Town yesterday, a school teacher and member of the Pan Africanist Congress was being questioned by police about the murder of 11 people in a church outside the city last Sunday.



Flood plain: Jefferson City, flanked by the Missouri River, which has broken its banks and flooded the streets around the state capitol. Elsewhere, the rain continued and the Mississippi breached the defences of St Louis

NEWS IN BRIEF

Demjanjuk may face new Nazi guard trial

Jerusalem: The supreme court yesterday ordered John Demjanjuk to remain in custody for ten days while Israel decides whether he should be tried for being a Nazi death-camp guard (Richard Beeston writes). The Ukrainian former American car worker was last week acquitted of being "Ivan the Terrible" of Treblinka.

In this latest twist, Judge Shlomo Levin ordered Mr Demjanjuk to be held in the Ayalon prison near Tel Aviv only hours before he was to leave Israel for Ukraine. The judge made the ruling after a member of the Jewish extremist Kach group and a representative of a Holocaust survivors' organisation petitioned for Mr Demjanjuk to face fresh charges of being an SS guard. "The discussion will resume in ten days," the judge said. "In seven days the attorney-general will submit his arguments, and he will not be deported until then."

The announcement came only three days after the same court, in a 400-page judgment, overturned a death sentence against Mr Demjanjuk on the ground of "reasonable doubt" and acquitted him of being the notorious gas-chamber operator who killed 850,000 Jews at the Treblinka death camp in Poland.

Falcone link

Rome: Antonino Gioe, a Mafia boss found hanged from his cell bars last week, was involved in the 1992 murder of Judge Giovanni Falcone, the scourge of the organisation, Italian TV said. (Reuters)

Drivers strike

Delhi: Thousands of Indian lorry drivers are on strike against road tariffs, with almost no food reaching the Indian capital. Panic-buying has pushed up the price of perishable foods and there may be severe shortages soon.

Clinton appeal

Washington: President Clinton will address the nation tomorrow in a last effort to prevent a defeat of his deficit-reduction plan that would cripple his presidency. Last month the Senate gave the plan preliminary approval.

Artist dies

Paris: Alfred Manessier, one of France's greatest abstract artists, has died in Orleans of injuries suffered in a car accident last week. He was 81. He was noted for his use of luminous colours and schematic designs with religious overtones. (AP)

Mines protest

Erfurt: Thousands of Germans demonstrated against the planned closure by the Treuhand privatisation authority of the Bischofshoerode potash mine because of a fall in world prices. (Reuters)

Polar pedal

Helleveststus: Marc Cornelissen, 34, and Peter de Bruijn, 35, two Dutchmen armed with a Magnum pistol to ward off polar bears, plan to cycle to the North Pole. They expect to take 40 days. (Reuters)



Gless: fears people could get killed

Thespians take on New York bad apples

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN NEW YORK

POLICEMEN in New York are multi-talented. They can run and jump, eat doughnuts, catch crooks and, when necessary, take bribes and bear up suspects. They just cannot act.

Last week Raymond Kelly, the Police Commissioner, announced he would start hiring actors and actresses as undercover agents to root out corruption among New York's finest.

Usually such undercover work would be carried out by the police but real cops, it seems, lack the necessary dramatic flair for this kind of work. A number are corrupt and the honest ones are still notoriously reluctant to squeal on their colleagues.

So Commissioner Kelly, who looks like a leathery Irish cop straight out of Hollywood, has now turned casting agent to try to turn his department's performance around. The actors will be expected to pose as civilian criminals — drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes, gangsters and the like — and try to get arrested. Then, equipped with concealed tape-recorders, they will collect evidence on crooked cops.

Since the plan was announced, the police department has been deluged with calls from out-of-work thespians offering their services. The city has a floating population of about 22,000 registered actors.

But some actors are less enthusiastic about the new plan. Sharon Gless, who plays Christine Cagney in *Cagney and Lacey*, said: "I think it's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard of. A person could get killed."

Aye, there's the rub. New York policemen may not often trouble the Oscar selectors, but they are still some of the toughest creatures on the planet. Actors, on the other hand, while perfectly happy to play rough on screen, tend to be less comfortable in real street life, where the bullets are not blanks and the script is unrehearsed.

Telly Savalas, the wisecracking Kojak of television fame, put it baldly: "If Kelly pulls this off, he's the greatest producer in the world."

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"Hi George, the new dog food is going down a storm in research."



"I'm afraid we'll have to cancel the show, my partner's lost his voice."



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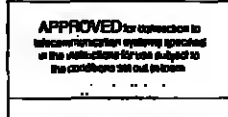
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A quarter of a century on, the Roman Catholic Church's ban on contraception is still stirring up controversy — and anger

A blight on the marriage bed

Can it really be 25 years since the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*? We were 18, we Catholic schoolgirls, getting through our A levels and preparing to go out and take on the World, the Flesh, the Devil and the Rolling Stones. We were not the rebel convent girls of traditional male fantasy who shoot out of school like greyhounds from the trap, anxious to make up in sexual mayhem for the years of white-veiled innocence. We were serious teenagers wanting to be good and save the world.

We had taken our turn as sacrilegious, laying out white linen and embroidered vestments in the cool scent of incense; we might look trollopy in our miniskirts and sooty black false eyelashes, but the sweetness and the idealism and spirituality of the Church still echoed through our lives like plainsong.

Came *Humanae Vitae* and everything changed. An idealistic girl may be able to accept all kinds of

difficult demands like celibacy outside marriage, chastity within it, the impossibility of abortion or divorce; but this was the final straw. It was an uncompromising, uncharitable edict making it clear that all artificial birth control was a sin. Even inside marriage, even after children.

The "rhythm method" — to which most of us owed a sibling or two — was the only option; it did not work, and abstinence clearly would not do. After years of being told that sex was a holy and sublime thing inseparable from marriage, it was more than irritating to be told that even in marriage, strict rationing applied. Nor did the new age of opportunities for women much incline us to the lives we had seen Catholic women leading: forever pregnant

or staying away from the communion rail until the menopause, with all the old biddies nudging and guessing why.

Of course, I do not speak for all. Some of my friends could not care less what the Pope said, and a small minority actually gloried in what Mrs Victoria Gillick has called "the great adventure" — ending up, like her, with 10 fine children. "We would not have given up," Mrs Gillick once said to me, "for the idea of sterilising our healthy young bodies with bits of wire and rubber."

But she is a rarity: attuned both theologically and emotionally to accepting a chancy, easy-rolling openness to new life. The rest of us looked at our own lives and needs, and regretfully half-turned our backs on the Church



LIBBY PURVES

which refused to do so. The real anger came when we saw how the ban actually worked. Well-off Catholic wives, the Brompton Oratory set, would tell you that they had found "a marvellous little Jesuit in Farm Street" who had a complex formula enabling them to take the Pill. Less intellectually athletic women

took it for a few months, then popped the last one into their mouth as they whipped into the confessional to get sin-free for Christmas or Easter.

Meanwhile, in rural Ireland you could meet women who saved out of meagre housekeeping money so their husbands could get drunk enough on Saturday night to forgo their "rights" and the risk of yet another baby. In Third World countries mothers died young and exhausted, or lived believing themselves sinners. The Irish nurse who first fitted me with a diaphragm assured me it was undetectable with the startling confession: "I used it for 30 years before my husband died, God rest him. Every Sunday morning he would pray to St Joseph to keep his family small, and every Saturday

night I would put in me out' cap. He never knew."

Now the encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* is to re-state the ban. The editor of the *Catholic Herald*, writing in these pages on Friday, cited the old coquette Brompton Oratory set comparison with traffic law: "Ladies regard the speed limit on their roads as an ideal to be aimed at — but have never seriously thought that they should obey it to the letter. For 25 years, liberals within the Catholic Church have adopted the same approach to the Church's teaching on birth control."

In which case, to hell with them. A Church cannot afford the kind of double standards in which a smug chattering-class bends the rules by sophistry, while simple and faithful people are flatly told that

contraception is a grave sin. But it happens: all over the world honest Catholics either hold to the rule and suffer, or break it and grieve for their wickedness. It is monstrous. It also torpedoes other teachings.

Catholicism rightly resists the trivialisation of sexuality and birth: there is a deeply humane case to be made against abortion, and someone has to argue it (although nobody has the remotest right to, unless they are personally prepared to take loving personal care of every mother and baby involved). But the ban on contraception devastates by association everything else the Church says about sex. It is an indefensible goal; and for 25 years it has blighted the Catholic marriage bed with dishonesty and bewilderment, sophistry and subtle corruption. At 18 I wanted none of it, and I still do not.

It only surprises me that after a quarter of a century out in the cold, I still mind so much.

The English rose behind the rebel

Who sustains the leader of the anti-Maastricht lobby when times get rough? Step forward another fierce Euro-sceptic, Biddy Cash. Julia Llewellyn Smith met her

Imagine Hollywood producers trying to cast *Maastricht: the movie*. Despite the odd B-word and recent cliffhangers in the battle for Britain's soul have proved as monochrome as the British sky on an August day. The grey-haired, bespectacled, earnest John Major and his arch-enemy, the grey-haired, bespectacled, earnest MP for Stafford, Bill Cash, are hardly the kind of men Tom Cruise would fight to play.

Fortunately, there is one character to bring a much-needed touch of glamour to the intricacies of debate on the social chapter. She is Biddy Cash, wife of Bill, otherwise known as one of Westminster's most admired wives and the woman who wore black leather trousers to the Tory party conference. Michelle Pfeiffer and Annette Bening would be clawing each other's eyes out for the part.

When Mr Cash comes into view fellow politicians have been known to hide in doorways to avoid a lengthy dissertation on the small print of some subsidiary clause. Mrs Cash, on the other hand, has the English rose looks and

slightly school-mistressy air that stop MPs dead in their tracks with admiration.

She is 48, looks ten years younger and exudes a charm that would make Jacques Delors allow any kind of opt out. For the past few months she has spent almost every day at the Euro-rebels' headquarters, an oak-panelled Georgian terrace house, only yards from the Palace of Westminster, where a band of unpaid sceptics armed with computers and faxes have set up a guerrilla version of the civil service, producing reams of literature to combat the campaign of misinformation that they believe is being propagated by the government.

The house is loaned by the former Tory treasurer, Lord McAlpine, and has long been a home to trouble in the Tory ranks. Baroness Thatcher lived there after being ousted from the leadership. Upstairs you can see the chair where she sat when she burst into tears during that interview with ITN's Michael Brunson.

For a few days last month, Mrs Cash watched her team teeter on the brink of victory and then reluctantly subside. "It was very exciting when it was so close," she says, pulling

her knees up to her chin and grinning into the middle distance. "But I wasn't really disappointed when they lost. There was no way Bill was going to vote against the government."

She is cheerfully undaunted by what she sees as a temporary setback. "We will go on to build. I really think we have got the message across. I am quite convinced that the majority of people see the dangers now and I think my husband's view will become the government's view. People like Heath and Howe will be seen to be the minority."

Despite her fluent understanding of Maastricht and all its implications, there is no question of Mrs Cash taking centre stage. Her conversation is peppered with references to her husband. "I respect him so much, his political instinct is brilliant. I know that he's right." Her job is the "dogbody work. I do his diary, make sure he gets from A to B, and it's great fun."

Mrs Cash has the perfect pedigree to be a politician's wife. She was born and brought up in the colonies, first in Tanzania, then Malaysia and was sent to an English boarding school at the age of eight. "It was the most wonderful school, very, very bad for one," she says, laughing uproariously. "We had no self-discipline, we used to listen to classical music and ride ponies and that was it."

Somewhat, as she puts it in her self-effacing style, "one did manage to get O levels" and from there it was on to another "wonderful establishment", Beechdown tutorial college in Oxford, where she is said to have been the most sought-after girl of her generation.

"That's when I started to... well, I didn't actually work, but I got some A levels," she says. "I thought about applying to Oxford, but I really couldn't have done it, so I did a course in French civilisation and language at the Sorbonne."

By this time she was engaged to Bill, who was four years older. She met him when she was 16 and he was reading law at Lincoln College. "Would you believe it," she laughs



Self-effacing: Biddy Cash sees herself as a dogbody. "But you do have to fight."

again. For two years she was a Downing Street secretary to Harold Wilson, but stopped when she got married at the age of 20. Three children followed, William, now aged 26, Sam, 22, and Letitia, 20.

From here there is a gap in her CV until her husband won his seat in a by-election in 1984, when she began to work for him. "There are MPs' wives who have their own careers and nothing to do with their husband's. That's fine, but you really see nothing at all of each other. This way I get to see Bill all the time."

She insists that the couple are not as obsessive as critics

"This way I get to see Bill all the time"

claim. "We garden, we love tennis and exercise, there's lots of theatre and jazz. But you do have to fight."

Listening to her describe her husband, you almost forget the reality of the gangly, abrupt man sitting downstairs

plotting his next move. "He has got the most wonderful disposition, he's very strong and I like strong men," she giggles.

Life has been good to Biddy Cash and consequently she is a good person to have around. The photographer and I are plied with white wine and leave overwhelmed. He sums it up. "She would be the perfect person to have at a dinner party. She would talk to everybody and they would leave feeling good and saying, 'What a nice person that woman is.'"

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Off to the land of our birth

Four Eskimos can finally rest in peace after 100 years in a museum

THE REMAINS of four Eskimos who died after being brought to America as live scientific exhibits by the great polar explorer Robert Peary almost a century ago were returned to Greenland and buried yesterday. Their return is part of a growing movement to restore artefacts and human remains collected or looted in the name of science to their place of origin.

The tale of the four Greenland Eskimos, or Inuit, is a peculiar and poignant one. In 1897, during a reconnaissance trip for his exploration of the pole and responding to a request from anthropologists in New York, Peary persuaded six Eskimos to leave their village for "nice warm homes in the sunshine land".

The arrival of the Eskimos (and Peary's other prize, a 30-ton meteorite) caused a sensation in New York harbour, and some 30,000 people boarded Peary's ship, *The Hope*, to gawp at the live Eskimos exhibited on pedestals.

Housed in the basement of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Eskimos soon fell prey to the alien germs of New York and within a few months four had died of respiratory disease. After post-mortem examinations, the Eskimos' flesh was removed and their skeletons were packed into boxes and stored in the museum's archives — where they have remained ever since.

A fifth member of the group returned to Greenland, but the fate of the sixth, Minik, who was just six years old when he left his home, is perhaps the saddest of all. After being brought up in America, he went back to Greenland as a young man. But having forgotten his native language and customs he found it impossible to readapt. He returned to America, where he died at the age of 27 and was buried in New Hampshire, an itinerant sawmill worker. "He was stranded between two cultures," says Ian Tattersall, the curator of the American Museum of Natural History.

Minik's story is told in a book, *Give Me My Father's Body*, by the amateur historian and Eskimo Kenn Harper. According to some contemporary newspaper accounts, Minik returned to the museum when he was older and

happened to see the skeleton of his father, Qisik, in a display case. He reportedly told *The New York World*: "I felt as though I must die then and there. I threw myself at the bottom of the glass case and prayed and wept... I swore I would never rest until I had given my father burial."

The museum, however, maintains that the Eskimos' remains were never put on public display. In 1909, the museum director, the famed anthropologist Franz Boas, admitted that a sham burial of Qisik was held "to appease the boy, and keep him from discovering that his father's body had been chopped up and the bones placed in the collection of the institution".

"Things that were done then would never be done now," Mr Tattersall says. "Now anthropologists go to the people they want to study, not the other way around. By the mid-1980s it was obvious we had to take some sort of action since we decided it wasn't appropriate for us to keep the remains."

Under a 1990 federal repatriation law, by November American museums must complete inventories of artefacts and human remains taken or purchased from Indian tribes. The law also requires the cataloguing and possible return of sacred objects, as well as all other "items of cultural patrimony".

SOME curators fear that the law may encourage countries to demand the return of other artefacts, including works of art. As yet, however, there are no plans to expand the repatriation to objects collected outside America.

The Eskimos, who were flown back last week, were buried, as pagans, under a mound of stones in a casket bearing the words "They have come home".

Peary himself may have felt less than proud of his role in the episode, and with good reason. As soon as newspapers began to criticise the treatment of the Eskimos, he declined to have anything to do with them, refused to contribute to the upkeep of Minik and, in his many books and diaries, made no reference whatever to the episode.

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Life is no joke in eastern Europe, which may be why black humour still flourishes in the post-communist era

Heard the one about the Serb?

From Rostock to Rumania, eastern Europe's new democracies have eagerly jettisoned the relics of Marxist-Leninism. All except one: the bittersweet political joke. It lives on, enjoying a renaissance under the rigours of free-market capitalism.

"What's the worst thing about communism?" one east European asks another.

"Whatever comes after it." Economic and political freedom has failed to put a chicken in every pot, let alone a Mercedes in every garage. The bleak new humour focuses on widespread unhappiness with rising unemployment and inflation.

This mordant view reaches its height, or rather its depths, in this quip from Russia: "What's the difference between a Russian optimist, pessimist and realist?"

"The optimist is learning German, the pessimist is learning Chinese and the realist is learning how to shoot a Kalashnikov."

Quips about the foibles of the region's new leaders are flourishing such as the following joke from Prague. A starving man is eating grass on the outskirts of Prague when the Czech president, Vaclav Havel, the former dissident and famed humanitarian, walks by. Horrified to see such a sight, he immediately gives him 50 crowns to buy some food. The next day the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, arch-rivaliser, sees the same man eating grass. He strides over and hands him one crown.

"What can I buy to eat with this?" asks the hungry man. "Nothing," says Mr Klaus. "But you can take the metro into the city centre. The grass is better there."

Telling political jokes under communism was a risky business," says Piotr Pazdowski, a journalist on Warsaw's *Res Publica* magazine. "But even so we used to get a kick out of it, because if you had the courage to tell a political joke it was a tiny bit of freedom."

Jokes in Poland now focus on the alleged megalomania of President Lech Walesa: Mr Walesa is fishing under the ice when a passer-by warns him there is nothing there.

He ignores him. A few minutes later another passer-by assures him there are no fish there.

He ignores him but starts to get increasingly irritated. Soon, a third man arrives and, like the previous two, asks the president what he is doing there.

"I'm the President of Poland and I'm fishing here, so go away," snaps Mr Walesa. "Who are you anyway?"

"I'm the manager of this ice-skating rink." Sarajevo radio's Surrealist Hit Parade, a 15-minute weekly programme broadcasting fusillades of black humour, is avidly listened to also in Belgrade, Zagreb and

Serb-controlled territories.

This Tito joke is typical. Tito, architect of the now-collapsed Yugoslav state, dies and Serbs and Croats argue about burying him.

"You bury him," say the Serbs to the Croats. "He was half-Croat anyway and we don't want anything more to do with them."

"No you bury him," say the Croats. "Yugoslavia was just a vehicle for greater Serbia anyway and we want independence."

So the argument goes on until Mirko Goldberg, the Jewish undertaker of Belgrade, appears and offers to bury Tito. Suddenly both Serbs and Croats are in abso-

lute agreement. This can never be allowed, they shout.

"Why not, I'm an undertaker?" asks Mr Goldberg plaintively.

"Because the last person the Jews buried was Jesus," say the Serbs and Croats together. "And he got up again three days later."

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It's all white on the night

Karl Lagerfeld swears by them, and so does Diana Rigg — for men or women, classic shirts will never be out of style



Fashion
IAN R. WEBB

WITH the entire world within reach of his American Express card, where does fashion's most prolific designer, Karl Lagerfeld, buy his shirts? Jermyn Street, in London. With all the names of Jermyn Street on offer, which does he choose? Hilditch & Key.

"I was told 30 years ago they were the best, found out they were very good, and never tried another place," Lagerfeld says. Over a year he buys perhaps 100 or more shirts. "There are new ones every six months," he says, when pressed if he favours a specific style. Certainly a worthy tribute.

An even bigger tribute, and possibly one of the fashion world's best kept secrets, is that Lagerfeld uses the know-how of Hilditch & Key (established in 1899) to make up the prototype shirts for the catwalk presentations of his collections for Chanel, Chloé and Lagerfeld. "They have a great craftsmanship and cut the shirts so beautifully," he says.

Lagerfeld is not the only notable name to have walked through the doors of Hilditch & Key over the years. Dozens of celebrities have become faithful customers — names as diverse as P.G. Wodehouse, Tom Cruise, Jeremy Paxman, Susan George, George Hamilton, Mel Brooks, Diana Rigg, Barry Gibb and Nicky Clarke. The American fashion designer Ralph Lauren is a fan, as are numerous dukes, earls and lords.

Hilditch & Key's store in Paris is



High style: a Lagerfeld sketch of the classic line

patronised by Paloma Picasso, Jane Birkin and yet another famous fashion character, Kenzo. In the past, Marlene Dietrich and Georges Pompidou had shirts specially created for them, the patterns of which Hilditch & Key still proudly retain.

Almost a century ago Charles F. Hilditch and W. Graham Key (two employees of the shirtmakers Harman's of Duke Street) decided to set up their own shop. The partnership flourished and the company soon became a firm favourite with London's upper-crust gentlemen. Their success prompted a move to the St James's area and in 1925 they took another giant step, opening a store on the Rue de Rivoli in Paris. The London store was bombed in the second world war, and after several relocations the firm settled at its present premises, 73 Jermyn Street, in 1958. Twenty years later another store was opened in the same street at number 37.

At the start of the 1980s the demand for its work became so great that a wholesale section was developed. At last its wares were available to those unable to get to the London or Paris stores. This business now covers the United States, Europe and the Far East. Everyone, it seems, wants a little piece of something so quintessentially British. Hilditch & Key now offers sleepwear and a wide selection of silk ties alongside men's and women's shirts, but it is the shirts that have brought it fame.



As Lagerfeld says, it is the unmistakable craftsmanship and high quality which make a Hilditch & Key shirt so desirable. Little things like the meticulous matching of stripes and checks — from shoulder to sleeve, collars, cuffs and pockets. A split yoke, cut on the bias, makes for a better fit. Tiny pleats at cuff and yoke ensure easier movement — infinite detailing which matters much to the wearer.

THE shirts are precision built (there is a made-to-measure service should you wish to get an even more fastidious fit), yet look and feel incredibly comfortable to wear.

In pristine white cotton, they are the ultimate in effortless chic. This gives us some clue to why the white shirt has become a fashion classic over the past few seasons and, with the help of the likes of Lagerfeld, will continue to be a permanent fixture in every woman's wardrobe. "It should be," Lagerfeld says, "and not only as a fashion point." Being such a elementary garment, it is

possible to find variations at many prices throughout the market.

The union of two such apparent opposites — the traditional business of shirtmaking and the ever-changing antics of high fashion — shows how fashion can work on many levels. It is refreshing that something as straightforward as a white shirt can make waves in the fashion arena.

Lagerfeld agrees. "It's fresh. It's timeless. It's beautiful," says the designer, warning that it must also be spotless. "Only in a white shirt you feel really impeccable in a polluted world."

Having seen the designers' collections for autumn/winter earlier in the year, filled with models wearing pristine white shirts, worn in a modern carefree manner, billowing from under a tailored Chanel jacket or jacket-like over a black polo-neck sweater, I wondered if Lagerfeld had any suggestions as to how to wear the white shirt and look up-to-the-minute.

His advice was emphatic: "I look at the Chanel or KL collections. Tails out!"



Above: Black single-breasted jacket, £1,325; black wide leg pants, £765, Chanel, 26 Old Bond St, W1, 31 Sloane St, SW1. Ladies' white dress shirt, £79.95, Hilditch & Key

Left: Black crêpe de Chine asymmetrical skirt, £845, Chanel. Ladies' white frilly shirt, £89.95; navy/white silk tie, £35.85, Hilditch & Key. White tennis shoes, £34.95, Superga, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond St, W1, and branches nationwide

Photographer MARTYN THOMPSON Make-up Sharon Ivo Hair Jonathan Connolly for Daniel Galvin



High tailing: Chanel shirts from the 1993 autumn/winter collection... Hilditch & Key make up the prototype shirts for the catwalk presentations like these by Lagerfeld Photographs DON ASHBY

HOTLINE

● THE much-lauded Abe Hamilton has been asked by Browns to design a capsule collection for their own label. Hamilton's simple and elegant designs were chosen because they reflect individuality and a 1990s attitude. Browns' own label will bridge the gap between designer and high street fashion at affordable prices. A selection of Hamilton's fine-knit velvet jersey and devere jet-black evening wear will also be available, each piece retailing for under £200. For those not shopping in South Molton Street, selected branches of Jigsaw will stock a range of his autumn/winter collection.

● "FUR for fashion is not only cruel but completely unnecessary," explained Caroline Charles, who is hosting a designer sale for Respect for Animals, "a campaign to end the cruel and unnecessary fur trade". The sale will take place on Saturday at 56-57 Beauchamp Place, SW3; admission £2.

● NINO Cerruti is no stranger to the movies. A firm favourite with costume directors, his clothes have been chosen for a new film featuring Clint Eastwood, Rene Russo and John Malkovich. In the *Line of Fire*, a box office success in America, will be on general release on August 27.

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COOLELECTRIC

Matthew Parris



The prime minister should learn from history the art of recovering from almighty gaffes

Let us at least start on a serious note. I suppose the off-the-cuff remark of all time — made in a moment of tension and not intended for publication — was delivered from the Cross. "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

I have always thought that this is the only thing we can be absolutely sure Jesus did say, because it stands in such a painful and awkward relation to the whole of the rest of the Gospel story that there can have been no reason for the apostles to invent it.

Indeed, given the mendacity of the church down the ages, it is astonishing that the remark has not been suppressed. Are there no theological spin-doctors prepared to deny that Jesus ever said it, or demonstrate that he meant something else? It would make a good examination question, to test the ability of advanced students of public relations.

You are the press adviser to the founder of a new religion whose cornerstone is to be that God sent your client to earth, and arranged for his trial, crucifixion and ascension to be the launching pad for the church he founded. On the cross, your client, in agony, says, audibly and unmistakably and in the presence of reporters, "my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" How do you handle this in the subsequent on-the-record briefing with the media?

Putting myself in the examinee's position, I am torn. On balance I incline (as have theologians) to "no comment". But there is a case for flat denial that it happened ("witnesses were deluded") or the suggestion that the remark was taken out of context and, properly understood, was an expression of pain rather than disillusion.

I am also drawn to the proposal that the remark was a deliberate piece of disinformation, designed to test the faith of believers. All these are runners. I am afraid that our Lord has been ill-served by his publicity machine.

Henry II did better. "Will nobody rid me of this turbulent priest?" was a most unfortunate off-the-record outburst. Even if the aim was to get rid of Becket, Henry could have done without the transcripts. But his apologists have done a good job in almost persuading historians that it might just have been a rhetorical remark, not a suggestion and still less an order.

Poor old Marie Antoinette could have used a royal spin-doctor. "Her Majesty used these words on a private occasion, in circumstances in which her audience will have under-

Victorian spin-doctors suggested that Nelson actually said Kismet, Hardy

stood — what the press have not — that the remark was meant as wholly ironic. She was perfectly well aware that there was no cake. That was Her Majesty's point."

Then there's "kiss me, Hardy". Victorian spin-doctors suggested that Nelson actually said "Kismet, Hardy" — a literary allusion to fate and destiny whose meaning would have been clear to both men. An enduring memory from my schooldays is the mischievous pleasure classmates took in asking our history teacher, Mr. Hatton, to explain the remark. "Please sir, was Nelson a queer?" one of the ruder boys asked.

Poor Mr Hatton was completely unable to speak, and stood there spluttering. Eventually he composed himself sufficiently to explain that men kissed each other all the time in those days. It was like shaking hands, really, and Hardy was an old friend. They were saying cheerio. When my classmate indicated disbelief, Mr Hatton told him to get out, an option not open to the prime minister's press spokesman faced with a sceptical lobby.

Still, Number Ten could surely have done better last week. Given that Mr Major's "bastards" comment was undeniable, I would have advised that a concerned damage limitation exercise be launched with the central strategy of convincing us that the prime

minister had used the term affectionately. After all, "bugger" is used in the north of England rather than "old chap" might be used in the south; and in America they use a word which begins with "mother" in a fashion more jovially dismissive than crude. Mr Major's aim should have been to persuade us that, with his circus background, he and his close entourage were accustomed to using language others might consider strong as the vehicle for no more than robust banter.

"He calls all his friends bastards," a press aide might explain at the doors of Number Ten — to be interrupted by a roar from within: "Get your arse back inside here. Tom, you must see. The minute I look the other way, you sods are off squealing to those bastards from the press. I'm trying to track down Norma. The old cow has buggered off to the opera again, leaving me up to my neck in s***. For Chrissake tell the ratpack to f*** off before Ken, Douglas, and all the other wankers in the cabinet turn up for the ruddy meeting!"

"I do beg your pardon, gentlemen," the press aide would murmur. But I think the prime minister calls. I'd better piss off. Dear John. Such a lovable old swine."

A dynasty is about to end in Peking — the next will make China the greatest power on earth

The long view from Deng's deathbed

William Rees-Mogg

Although his death is becoming almost as long drawn out as General Franco's, observers in China do not believe that Deng Xiaoping is likely to last the summer. As with Charlemagne, we may remember him as one of the terrible benefactors of mankind. His death is not likely to lead to any early change of government, for the post-Deng collective government is already in place. But in terms of Chinese history his death will mark the end of a dynasty. Deng is the last of the old communist leaders who shared the authority of the Long March. Even on his deathbed he confers legitimacy on the communist regime, a legitimacy his successors are unlikely to enjoy.

The present collective leadership centres on three men. The most important is Zhu Rongji, the deputy premier and governor of the central bank; the others are Jiang Zemin, the president, and Qiao Guh, the head of intelligence. Zhu Rongji is a modernising reformer of real stature. When he was mayor of Shanghai he was known as "one chop" Zhu, because he reduced the number of "chops", or official stamps needed for a transaction, from 32 to one. To judge by the Shejy report, the British police could benefit from a similar reform: we need a "one chop" home secretary.

The importance of the "one chop" reputation amounts to more than an attack on red tape. In Chinese history, the authority of an office lay not only in the holder, but in his official seals. In 1923 the Christian warlord, Feng Yuxiang, the general famous for baptising his troops en masse with a fire hose, chased President Li out of Peking. President Li left the seals of office hidden with one of his concubines, because he knew that nobody could take over the presidency unless they possessed the seals. Zhu Rongji is potentially a reformer of authority itself.

He has, indeed, been called the Chinese Gorbachev, mainly by his enemies. The example of Gorbachev is not one the Chinese communists are keen to follow. Yet the comparison is appropriate in one sense. Zhu Rongji does seem to be a committed socialist as well as a committed reformer. Like Gorbachev he is an open-minded man of decent instincts; he understands better than Gorbachev did the way a Western-style economy can be made to work, but his aim is to preserve the regime by reform, not to destroy it. Yet like the LDP in Japan, the Communist party in China has been in power too long and has become deeply corrupt.

The Deng policies of market economics have already transformed the Chinese economy. There is a certain overheating at present, marked by rising inflation and a growing trade deficit. Money supply has been increasing by 50 per cent, a rate which would alarm even non-monetarist economists. Nevertheless the overheating is less severe than it was in 1988, when it led to disorder in the cities and eventually to the Tiananmen Square massacre. In 1988 there was 30 per cent inflation and shortages of goods. In 1993 inflation in the cities is around 15 per cent, but wages are rising by about 25 per cent, and the shops are full of goods.

Zhu Rongji's policy seems to be to reduce the growth rate from its current 14 per cent to 8 per cent, in order to cut imports and increase pressure for exports. In Europe we

may regard with envy an economy in which an 8 per cent growth rate can be considered a recession.

I have been talking to Robert Lloyd George, the founder of the Hong Kong firm of Lloyd George Asset Management, about the Chinese companies now quoted on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. They are among the most highly developed Chinese businesses. Two examples show how competitive China now is.

The Guangzhou Shipyard, which produces freighters of around 40,000 tons, has lower costs than the Korean shipyards usually considered the world leaders, and at least equal efficiency. The Beijing Renmin Machinery Company sells off presses in the international market at \$600,000. The nearest Western equivalent is the German Heidelberg press which sells for \$2 million. Perhaps the comparison is not exact, but it gives an approximation to China's competitive advantage in medium technology engineering.

The scale of this expansion is formidable. China has 26 airlines, which have placed 20 years' worth of orders with Boeing. Domestic air traffic is increasing by 30 per cent a year, so that there is a shortage of pilots and air traffic controllers. China has overtaken Japan as the largest purchaser of Australian wool, and is importing 300-400 tons of gold a year. That reflects China's savings level of around 30 per cent, and the Chinese invention, the demand for capital goods, including telecommunications and electrical power equipment, is enormous.

In Europe we need to understand the scale of this development. In the West we think there is a bad recession, and so there is in most of our countries. China is experiencing the biggest industrial expansion in the history of the world. This boom affects a population of over one billion people in China and another half billion in the related Asian economies. The competitive advantage is extraordinary. A German company can employ skilled labour in China for 1 per cent of the cost of skilled labour in Germany. You cannot argue with a 99 per cent advantage in labour costs.

What can stop this economic revolution? The market has potential numbers about five times those of the European Community and 30 times those of the United Kingdom. The great problem is political legitimacy, the problem of Deng Xiaoping's deathbed. In this century China has experienced the fall of the Manchu dynasty, the brief Sun Yat-sen republic of 1911, the period of anarchy and

warlords until Chiang Kai-shek prevailed in the late 1920s, the Japanese invasion of Manchuria in 1931, which extended further into China in the late 1930s, the civil war after 1945, the Mao regime from 1949 to 1976, the Deng regime from 1977 to the present day. That is at least seven regimes in 90 years, each with its own agony.

The new regime will have to accord with the facts of power in the new China, including the growth of the economy, the position of the People's Liberation Army, itself deeply involved in commercial activity, the relative autonomy of the provinces, the historic Chinese problem of corruption, the opportunity of Hong Kong in 1997, the possible rapprochement with Taiwan, and the fear of anarchy. It will have to bring the 700 million or so Chinese peasants into fuller integration with the new economy. God willing, China will behave more humanely to Tibet.

The problems are immense. But so is the opportunity that Deng has created. Unless there is a political catastrophe, China will be the world's greatest economic power by the middle of next century, overtaking Japan, overtaking the United States, leaving Europe well behind. We worry about Germany's economic power — heaven knows why. By 2025 or so, Germany's GDP will be less than a fifth of China's. Chinese multi-billionaires will be walking down Bond Street buying golden boxes inlaid with jade at Aspreys; they will represent the conspicuous power. Prestige always follows GDP.

China's economic power will reshape the politics of the world. European policy should be to help in every way in the creation of a prosperity that will sooner or later equal our own. In China, in other Asian nations and probably in India as well, for the Chinese the future is dangerous but almost infinitely promising. For Europe, China is the last great frontier of opportunity.

They're all in this together

Peter Riddell asks why the world's politicians are in trouble



John Major is not alone. The Tories' rout in the Christchurch by-election last Thursday, and their low poll ratings, do not represent trends unique to Britain and Mr Major. Governments throughout the world are in serious trouble with their voters. Mistrust of government as an institution is now imposing constraints on what any political leader can do.

The Christchurch phenomenon has been widely repeated. A recent analysis in *The Washington Post* concluded that "From Canada to Japan and points in between, sometimes staggering majorities of citizens are telling pollsters that their country's government can't be trusted, that their nation's economy is on the rocks and that things will only get worse, not better." At least half the public, and often more than three-quarters, believe their country is going in the wrong direction.

The Canadian and Japanese prime ministers have left office with ratings below even Mr Major's present record low. The 40-year-old monopoly of power by the Liberal Democrats in Japan has been broken and in Italy the postwar political system is falling apart. In France, the Socialist government lost by a landslide. In Germany, Chancellor Helmut Kohl is struggling in face of the difficulties of unification. In America, President Bill Clinton has this weekend been fighting to preserve as much as possible of his budget package, even though Congress is controlled by his own party. That is to leave aside the chronic problems in the new democracies of Eastern Europe. There have been exceptions: the ruling left-of-centre parties have retained power in both Spain and Australia, though in both cases partly because of the weaknesses of their opponents.

A common theme in governments' unpopularity is the length of the recession and rising unemployment. Governments have not delivered and have been blamed. But that is not a sufficient explanation. Previous post-war recessions have not resulted in similar disillusionment — though, as Ian Gilmour has argued, the depression that began in 1929 led to an even worse democratic crisis.

Politicians of all parties concede that something more profound is happening. Douglas Hurd has said the problem is "not simply or even mainly economic. In most democratic countries, there is discontent with the process of politics and those who take part in it." A different Tory, John Biffen, has talked in the Commons about "an all-time record gap between the perceptions of government

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

and government", to which Mr Major nodded at least partial assent. Paddy Ashdown found during his winter tour of Britain not just anger with the government, which he expected, but anger with all politicians of all parties, which he did not expect. The latest MORI poll for *The Times* shows an all-time high of three-fifths saying the Tories are out of touch with ordinary people.

In America, faith in the beneficial role of government peaked in 1964 when Lyndon Johnson launched the Great Society. Then, 62 per cent said government could be trusted to do what was right most of the time. Now, fewer than 20 per cent agree. A similarly negative view is taken in

Japan, Italy, France and Canada, where a poll showed that 56 per cent regarded big government as the biggest threat to the country, while 16 per cent mentioned big business and a similar percentage trade unions.

The public is ambivalent. Voters still look to the state when their livelihood is threatened and in retirement. Yet they are also mistrustful of government. These ambiguities are reflected in the high level of support for Ross Perot in America. Last November he won 19 per cent, more than the Liberal Democrats managed in Britain, and he has retained a substantial influence.

A recent analysis by David Lauter and Ronald Brownstein for the *Los Angeles Times* showed that, like Clinton voters, Perot followers believe government has a major role

to play, but, like Republicans, they believe government is wasteful and incompetent. More than half of Perot backers believe waste amounts to over half of government spending. The emergence of a militant centre rallied by Mr Perot has prevented Mr Clinton from mobilising a stable majority. The legacy of the era of restrained government has made it harder for Mr Clinton to reinvent and reinvigorate government.

The *LA Times* analysis suggests that cynicism towards government applies to all large institutions, fuelling a demand for someone to police the system. That has echoes in the attacks on vested interests, such as privatised utilities and big banks, by Labour's modernisers such as Gordon Brown. The government as protector of the ordinary family is also the core of Mr Major's approach to the citizen's charter.

The lesson for governments is, in part, the obvious one that they have to be seen to be successful. At one level, that means delivering sustained recovery and some response to structural unemployment and social ills such as law and order (however symbolic and empty some measures on crime may be). It also means government becoming less remote.

Currently fashionable talk about politics as an activity in decline misses the point. Some decisions have to be taken by governments and that means politicians. But at present there is a stalemate about politics, not just in Britain but in most Western countries. The *LA Times* series concluded with a warning from Will Marshall of the Progressive Policy Institute, a think-tank close to Mr Clinton, that "without new ideas, the two parties' market share is going to continue to dwindle and the ranks of the alienated are going to continue to grow". The same applies in Britain. Mr Hurd may be right to dismiss the Liberal Democrat boomlet with the comment that "defeating political advantage passes to those who will never be called on to govern". But anti-Westminster rhetoric may have a longer, and deeper, appeal than our rulers assume.

In two minds

AN UNSEEMLY squabble is developing among the intelligentsia of Mensa, where Sir Clive Sinclair presides as chairman. Dissident members of the brain-loaded body are planning to launch a putsch against Sinclair's leadership at next month's annual general meeting.

The cause of complaint appears to be that Mensa is taking itself too seriously and has become business-orientated at the expense of its social affairs. Sinclair, the father of the pocket calculator and inventor of the ill-fated CS electric car, is deemed to be responsible. His most recent invention, the Zike, an electric bicycle with a top speed of about 15mph, was promoted in the Mensa magazine.

Sinclair was not available to comment yesterday on the struggle to unseat him but Mensa international president Victor Serberbiakoff dismissed the threat. "There is always some group who gets excited and attack what they see is the establishment. I think they enjoy doing it and look for-

ward to it every year, even though they have little chance of succeeding."

The rebels, however, spearheaded by George Shera, are confident that a motion calling for Sinclair to be removed will be carried. Shera says he has the backing of rising number of Mensans who, like him, are concerned that business appears to be taking over.

How can you have an IQ of 160 and not want to make money?

● COWES got off to a dramatic start on Saturday when one of the event's officials

climbed on to the roof of the Royal Yacht Squadron to take a look at yachts at sea. Lucien Prince lost his balance and tumbled backwards through the skylight to land in a crumpled heap on the ballroom floor, where yachtsmen were busy setting their courses. A shaken Prince was taken to hospital but was later seen fit and well in the clubhouse.

Down and out

THE prognosis for the disheartened Tories of Christchurch is not good if the experience of Newbury, the previous by-election disaster, is anything to go by. It has emerged that the Newbury Tory agent, David Barnham, who left last week, will not be replaced because the local party is £130,000 in debt. "We cannot afford to replace him and we couldn't afford to pay him. David's decision to resign spared me the unenviable task of telling him to go," says Mike Gibbon, chairman of Newbury Tories.

Uncomfortable decisions now face Christchurch Tories, who suffered an even more traumatic electoral defeat.



DIARY

Judy Jameson, the long-serving agent, is presiding over a demoralised Conservative Association where donations are down and membership is shaky. Rob Hayward, the defeated candidate, is gamely sticking to her, however: "I am sure there will be no recriminations and that she will keep her job." That's just what they said in Newbury, which now owes Conservative Central Office money it can ill afford to lose.

● Advice flows from one beaten Tory to another. Julian Davidson, who was unkindly dubbed Mr Blobby during his disastrous campaign as candidate for Newbury, is writing some consoling words to Rob Hayward. "I am writing to commiserate," he says. "I went to a Greek island to lick my wounds. I think he ought to

think about doing the same sort of thing."

Home to Lech

THE remains of Poland's wartime prime minister are to be disinterred this autumn from a cemetery in Nottinghamshire and returned for burial in a tomb which has long awaited him deep in the crypt of Wawel cathedral in Cracow.

General Wladyslaw Sikorski became leader of the Polish government in exile after Germany invaded in 1939. A year later he was welcomed to Britain at Paddington station by Winston Churchill and King George VI; but in 1943 the war hero was killed in an air crash and buried in Newark.

Britain and British Poles have previously resisted pres-

sure to return Sikorski, who said he wanted to be buried in a "free Poland". But Poland's portly president Lech Walesa has persuaded the Foreign Office to release him. Not entirely a selfless act perhaps, Walesa plans the vote-winning reburial ceremony two days before general elections on September 19.

Not cricket

THEY made one or two concessions to players in the Women's World Cup finals at Lord's yesterday. But the men of the Marylebone Cricket Club were not going to go overboard.

Women were most unusually allowed into the Long Room, the hallowed inner-sanctum of the male-only club, and they were allowed to use the men's changing rooms. But when it came to England's post-match celebrations, the rules reverted — no women were allowed into the bar.

"A motion on women members being accepted to the club was rejected by 70 per cent recently. It would be strange to lift the regulations for one match," argued Lt-Col John Stephenson, club secretary.



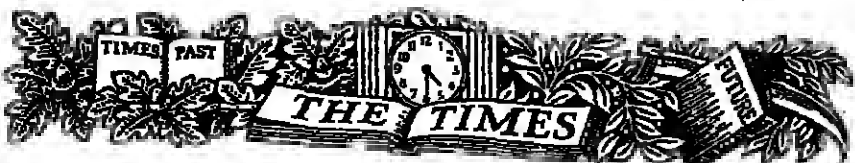
Two kinds of Lloyd Webber: composer, left, and cellist

Variations on a fraternal theme

Julian Lloyd Webber, who in a hot moment once dismissed those who pestered him about his elder brother's musicals as "cretins", seems to have relented and was to be heard bowing a piece by Sir Andrew at a concert this weekend. But only after allowing himself a fraternal gibe. Before throwing his Stradivarius cello into a vigorous rendition of *Variations*, Lloyd Webber junior introduced the composition: "Modern British composers have difficulty in persuading



people to perform their work in public," he said. "This piece is written by someone who doesn't find it easy to get his work performed and has difficulty in finding two pennies to rub together." David Mellor, the former arts minister, attended the concert at Kensington Palace and made clear his loyalties lay with the cello-playing brother. "I've got many of his recordings and he plays very well." The mellifluous strains of *Sunset Boulevard* have yet to be heard chez Mellor.



PEACE FROM THE ASHES

Syria has not derailed the Middle East talks

Every modern war hits civilians hardest; but the terrible price paid by the villagers of southern Lebanon for last week's showdown between Israel and Syria underlines the importance of more active American engagement in the Middle East peace negotiations. Israel's intensive bombardment, deliberately aimed at forcing Syria to stop supporting the Hezbollah by driving several hundred refugees north to Beirut, was a classic instance of the brutal calculus of Middle Eastern politics. Operation Accountability called Syria to account, not the Lebanese, demonstrating to Damascus that its own tactics of war by proxy could be turned against it. The insistence of Damascus last week that Syria and Lebanon were one country was tacit acknowledgement that the message was clearly received.

Far from setting back the peace process, the firestorm over Lebanon could thus help to end a stalemate which has lasted for ten months. The government of Yitzhak Rabin had secured extraordinarily wide public assent to returning most or all of the Golan Heights. Syria, by contrast, has shown no sign of delivering a full peace, including diplomatic relations, normal trade and guaranteed security arrangements. President Hafez Assad chose last month to use Hezbollah to demonstrate that he sees no need for any serious trade-off.

The tactic has backfired, leaving him under greater pressure than before to negotiate in good faith with Israel. Lebanese civilians have again been used as pawns and terribly hurt; but the original decision to put them in the firing line was Syria's, not Israel's. Since Syria justifies the presence of 40,000 of its troops in Lebanon with the argument that it is there to enforce the law, it could hardly pretend not to be involved. Damascus has now clearly betrayed its promise to be the people's defender.

Israel has much to lose from any destabilisation of Lebanon, where reconstruction after its civil war has now begun. Instead of alienating Lebanon from the Hezbollah, as they turned against the PLO in the 1980s, the

Israeli onslaught could further radicalise the country's south. But Syria's incitement of Hezbollah has greatly angered Beirut, by deferring the prospect of a phased Israeli withdrawal from its southern Lebanese "security zone" in the context of a peace settlement.

American praise for Syrian "restraint" was double-edged. It was not merely at American bidding that Syria got Lebanon to withdraw its request for an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council. The absence of a united Arab front in New York could have been embarrassingly evident. A meeting of Arab foreign ministers, five days into the Israeli operation, was inconclusive, failing even to endorse proposals for an Arab summit.

None of these governments could condone Israel's action, but few were unhappy at the prospect of curbs on Iran's support for Hezbollah and other Islamic extremists. Syria itself has been ruthless in suppressing fundamentalism within its borders. Jordan, Egypt and much of the Palestinian leadership were privately appalled by Syria's sabotage of the talks, which with the exception of the Israeli-Syrian negotiation are tantalisingly close to settlement. Israel's ruthless response to the Hezbollah attacks and the ambivalent Arab reaction is a serious loss of face for Damascus.

Although the Israeli cabinet was badly split during the operation, the government of Yitzhak Rabin emerges with its mandate for peace, recently under attack from Israeli hardliners, strengthened by this demonstration that it makes no concessions on the security of Israel. If there was danger in the Israeli move, that danger is now past. The foothills of the Middle East negotiations have been climbed and the painful concessions must now be made. Warren Christopher, the American secretary of state, arrives in Egypt today as the broker of a Lebanese ceasefire. However cosmetic that diplomatic success — this was a fire that had burnt itself out — it is capital he can and should build on with determination.

THE UNFAIR SEX

The medical system should address the neglected majority

Half a century after the Beveridge report promised freedom from ill health, the medical system still seems to discriminate against more than half the population. Today, *The Times* launches a three-day series of articles on women and health which highlights the alarming weakness of modern medicine in meeting women's needs.

Women are vulnerable both to medical neglect and to excessive medical intervention. A study in 13 London hospitals has shown that men with heart disease are 50 per cent more likely to be operated upon than women with the same illness. There are indications that a similar imbalance may also apply to kidney dialysis. In contrast, women are twice as likely to be prescribed mood-altering drugs such as tranquilisers, apparently because doctors believe them to be more liable to emotional instability. Most striking has been the "medicalisation" of childbirth which has encouraged unnecessary caesarian operations and inductions and limited the choices available to expectant mothers.

Male domination of the medical profession has played a key part in this culture. In 1980, only 17 per cent of GPs and 11 per cent of consultants were female. It is therefore heartening that women now account for more than half of all medical students. Yet the emergence of a more balanced profession may not sweep away all the disadvantages facing women in the surgery and the ward. Women doctors are even more likely than their male colleagues to prescribe tranquilisers to female patients.

ALL FOR ONE

Monarchy remains a mighty institution

The death of a monarch, even one so retiring and apolitical as King Baudouin I, powerfully recalls to any country the importance of national identity: above all, perhaps, to one so flippantly inclined as Belgium. For ministers in the devoutly federalist Belgian government, the momentous battle taking place in Brussels yesterday over the battered shell of the European exchange-rate mechanism may have loomed larger than the national sadness. But for the Belgian people, the question mark over European union mattered next to nothing beside their grief at the loss of their *roi tristé*.

King Baudouin was the heir to Leopold III, who abdicated in 1950 after national anger over his surrendering to Nazi Germany had brought the country to the brink of civil war. He thus began his reign with few of monarchy's natural advantages over the political classes. The institution was little more than 100 years old; and for many, it symbolised a national disaster. His country, one of history's more artificial constructs, was divided by language and culture even more deeply than it had been by wartime humiliation.

By the time he died, the near-partition of Belgium into the three highly autonomous regions of Flanders, Wallonia and greater Brussels was, to his publicly expressed dismay, spurring nationalist calls for outright separatism. But his achievement was right separatism. But his achievement was the stalwart promotion of mutual tolerance, an achievement held the more precious

today because, childless, he had been able to make no provision for a smoothly automatic succession. The government's speedy decision in favour of the late king's brother Albert was both a relief and a necessity.

Such powers as he had to bind the country were purely formal, and even these were reduced during his reign with scant regard to the many times he had pressed squabbling coalitions back into harness. Yet they were sufficient. So respected was his severely Catholic integrity that when three years ago, he insisted on his "freedom of conscience" and refused to sign a law legalising abortion, Belgians accepted with relief the unprecedented device of allowing him to abdicate for a single day.

Quaintly anachronistic as the formality, symbolism and continuity of kingship may seem to politicians such as Australia's Paul Keating, countries which have undergone terrible upheavals hold them in greater respect. Uganda was this weekend bravely experimenting in exploiting their healing properties. Spaniards have no doubt of their stabilising worth.

Modern monarchs neither have nor need executive power. Integrity and continuity are their stock in trade. These qualities are becoming more precious when European political parties, many of them in power for a decade or more, are increasingly judged arrogant or corrupt or both. Politicians could with profit learn not to treat modesty as merely a royal prerogative.

Kuwaiti charges against Iraqis

From the Acting Ambassador of Kuwait (a.i.)

Sir, Three years have passed since, on August 2, 1990, Iraq committed the horrible act of invading its neighbour Kuwait. The disastrous consequences affected not only Kuwait but the entire Gulf region.

Since Kuwait was liberated the Iraqi regime has failed to comply with United Nations resolutions in persistent defiance of the will of the international community.

In spite of UN Security Council resolution 833 (1993), which welcomed the decision of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Commission, Iraq has challenged the commission's reports and disregarded its decisions. Iraqi officials still assert their claim that Kuwait is part of Iraq.

Iraq still holds 627 Kuwaiti prisoners in addition to those of other nationalities, including three British citizens. Its authorities insist that they are not responsible for the return of property stolen from Kuwait during the occupation. Most of the equipment handed over has been intentionally damaged.

Iraq has not fulfilled its obligation with regard to compensation under section E of UN resolution 687 (1991). It still raises obstacles for the UN special commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency in their task to ensure that Iraq has dismantled its weapons of mass destruction.

It seems clear, from apparent Iraqi intelligence involvement in the alleged attempt to assassinate the former US president George Bush, that Iraq is supporting terrorism.

History tells us that the Iraqi regime understands only the language of force.

The plight of Kuwait and failure of the Iraqi regime to comply with UN Security Council resolutions after three years of its flagrant aggression against Kuwait still haunt the conscience of all free men and women.

Yours faithfully,
J. AL-MUBARAKI
(Chargé d'Affaires),
Embassy of the State of Kuwait,
46 Queen's Gate, SW7,
July 29.

Homosexuality focus

From Ms Jane Robson

Sir, The report (July 21) about Cardinal Hume's document on homosexuality seems to miss its true importance by focusing on his re-statement of Church teaching. As a Roman Catholic bishop he is bound to base his arguments on interpretations of the Church's tradition.

What is astonishing, when one reads the full document, is that he has actually listened to the "distress and anger" of members of groups such as the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. He has firmly stepped back from the hostile anti-gay rights letter issued by the Vatican on July 29 last year, and stresses unambiguously: "Nothing in the Church's teaching can be said to support or sanction, even implicitly, the victimisation of homosexual men and women."

Not only is the tone of his document encouraging and supportive but in asserting that "Being a homosexual person, then, is neither morally good nor morally bad", Cardinal Hume is restating a Roman Catholic position which was criticised by the Vatican in October 1986 as "an overly benign interpretation [of] the homosexual condition itself".

I urge other lesbians and gay men to read this document, available from the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement. Despite its limitations, this is not another depressing homophobic broadside from the Church.

Yours faithfully,
JANE ROBSON,
Top Flat, 19 Seaview Avenue,
Lipson, Plymouth, Devon,
July 21.

Housing travellers

From Mrs Helen V. Powell

Sir, H. L. Thomson says (letter, July 28): "Many taxpayers cannot understand why travellers should not provide their own accommodation."

Travellers do of course provide their own homes. The point at issue is surely that of the decreasing availability of tolerated stopping places and the associated matter of site provision.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN V. POWELL,
20 Wolmers Hey, Great Waltham,
Chelmsford, Essex,
July 28.

Pronounced re-think

From Lt Col J. M. Walsh

Sir, Most of us will agree with Canon Harvey's thoughts on BBC pronunciation (letter, July 21) and every educated listener will have his own particular bugbear. Mine is the incorrect placing of the emphasis on the prefix "re-". When the word means doing something again, well and good, e.g. re-enter; but when no repetition is implied, it sounds ridiculous, e.g. research, instead of research.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. WALSH,
The Glebe House,
Lusk, Co. Dublin,
July 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Research on persistent virus disease

From Mr Hugh Faulkner

Sir, It is understandable that Dr Simon Wessely ("Why ME is not all in the mind", July 27), in referring to the Channel 4 programme "Frontline" (July 24) which discussed myalgic encephalomyelitis, should seek to defend the doubtful action of the social services in one case in which he was involved, but suffers from this devastating disease have in the past been given a bad time by the medical profession.

One must nevertheless feel sympathy for GPs who are confronted by patients desperately seeking help as they see their careers and life-styles threatened by an illness for which there is no cure and little helpful treatment. With this disease increasing in prevalence and severity, some action has to be taken with urgency.

The Persistent Virus Disease Research Foundation was launched in April dedicated to research into the causes of this illness, to find therapies to mitigate the symptoms and, hopefully, to find a cure. Its name is felt to be the most accurate with our present state of knowledge and also because it differentiates PVD from other fatigue states.

The foundation has a research committee of doctors and scientists pre-eminent in the field.

Persistent virus disease has been recognised as an organic disease by our Department of Health and by the World Health Organisation. This foundation is determined that the scourge of hundreds of thousands for so long shall be defeated.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH FAULKNER
(Honorary Director),
Persistent Virus Disease
Research Foundation,
4 One Tree Lane,
Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire,
July 27.

From Dr Charles Shepherd

Sir, Dr Simon Wessely errs if he assumes that the ME Association's criticism of psychiatrists and strange forms of behaviour therapy (e.g. throwing a patient into a swimming pool to see if he sank or swam) is also intended to stigmatise people with psychiatric illness.

Our dispute is principally with those doctors, be they general practitioners, physicians or psychiatrists, who continue to deny the genuinely debilitating and distressing nature of this syndrome. The result, as I know Simon Wessely agrees, is that vulnerable patients end up spending large sums of money on therapies which are at best costly and speculative and at worst positively harmful.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES SHEPHERD
(Medical adviser, ME Association),
Friars Cottage, Queens Square,
Chalfont Hill, Gloucestershire.

A 'rebel's' rejoinder

From Mr William Cash, MP for Stafford (Conservative)

Sir, Rupert Allason (the *Valerie Grove* Interview, July 30) says I was "mobbed" by Douglas Hurd on the day of the confidence vote (report, July 24). He could not be more wrong.

If the government had lost the confidence motion nobody doubts there would have been a Labour administration, which would have continued with the Maastricht treaty, plus the social chapter. This would have occurred if others had done what Rupert chose to do, namely to be absent.

Moreover, the original vote on July 22 was not going to impose the social chapter: it was about the protocol on social policy, then, unlike the question of confidence.

A glance at the division list on the confidence motion would show all but those eyesless in Maastricht that I was not "prepared to bring down" the government (Sir Edward Heath's article, July 28).

The difference between him and the Conservative party is that he wants a European federal system or worse, the social chapter, monetary union and the ERM. These will bring unemployment and commercial and political instability throughout Europe. Those who remember "Black Wednesday" and observe the ERM crisis would

Freedom to know

From Mr Maurice Frankel

Sir, The government arranged for Mark Fisher's "right to know" bill to be talked out on July 2 partly because it maintained that only ministers should decide on access to information.

The white paper on open government now proposes two welcome broad statutory rights, to personal files and health and safety information. Decisions will be made by the courts or, possibly, a new tribunal. The acceptance of a statutory approach in these areas raises questions about its rejection elsewhere.

Disclosure of all other Whitehall information will be subject to a weak code of practice. There may be no access to documents: the government is promising only to answer questions. Given civil servants' skill at evading MPs' questions, the public's prospects may not be good.

Complaints can be made to the parliamentary ombudsman, who can report unreasonable secrecy to a select

From Mr Nicholas Anderson

Sir, Simon Wessely is to be congratulated for his championing of the need to end the senseless division of illness into "physical" and "psychiatric".

ME is a distinct clinical entity recognised as such by the World Health Organisation (*International Classification of Diseases*, No 10, ref. G93.3) and is not the same as chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS).

Medical research may be "surprisingly unanimous" in detecting depression in a high proportion of CFS patients but it is equally surprisingly unanimous in recording relatively low rates of depression in ME sufferers.

If only 50 per cent of Dr Wessely's psychiatric colleagues believe that ME has an organic basis, does this not vindicate the need for documentation such as "Frontline"? Presumably the remaining 50 per cent are either "don't knows" or wedded to the psychiatric hypothesis.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS ANDERSON
(Director, ME Action Campaign),
7 Priory Road,
Wells, Somerset,
July 27.

From Mrs P. O'Connor-Lintott

Sir, By the time I was diagnosed, by a consultant virologist, some 18 months after the onset of ME, I had lost all that was dear to me in terms of job, home and mental security, family and friends. Now, at 49 years old, I am reduced to living in warden-controlled pensioners' accommodation.

Most of my savings are gone, making it impossible to invest in another home, assuming that I will ever work again. From being a successful teacher and community worker I now manage a few sessions a week of voluntary work.

I am convinced that it would have been a different picture had my original GP taken me seriously at first when I was happy, secure and stable but felt so dreadfully ill nonetheless.

Yours etc,
PATRICIA LINTOTT,
21 Fidler's Close, Bamford,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
July 27.

From Ms Sarah David

Sir, I have had ME for 20 years and have yet to meet a DSS doctor who doesn't advise me to go to yet another psychiatrist or make me feel like a parasite. I spent five years in my bedroom, barely able to move.

In my experience, most doctors listen but do not believe. Sadly, nothing in Dr Wessely's article suggests that things are about to improve.

Yours faithfully,
SARAH DAVID,
23 Melbourne Road,
Teddington, Middlesex,
July 28.

agree. My opposition to Maastricht has been primarily because I do not believe that the treaty can or will prevent all this from happening.

It is to these issues that my discussions with Douglas Hurd are directed in the run-up to the proposed inter-governmental conference in 1996.

It would be worthwhile party spokesmen taking on board the reality that we lost Christchurch and Newbury because of the failure of our new European policy, including the ERM, to which the government remained utterly committed up to Black Wednesday despite Euro-sceptic warnings.

The loss of jobs and businesses massively increased the gap between taxation and public expenditure (including the cost of social security) hence VAT on fuel. The tentative recovery and our being forced out of the ERM are despite, not because of, the government's policy on Maastricht and our manifesto commitment to the ERM.

The Euro-sceptics did not create divisions on Europe: we simply presented accurate arguments. It is absurd for us to be blamed for being right. It has been a case of the incredible in pursuit of the impossible. This raises an even bigger problem.

Yours faithfully,
BILL CASH,
House of Commons,
August 1.

committee. As select committees themselves are sometimes refused information, this is moral pressure, not enforcement.

The ombudsman already fully investigates about 270 complaints a year and takes an average of 13 months to complete an investigation. Secrecy complaints may fall into a black hole.

The white paper presents a paradox. If statutory rights really undermine ministerial accountability, why has the government accepted them in two important areas?

And if there is no objection of principle, as the government now seems to concede, why not adopt the approach across the board?

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE FRANKEL
(Director),
The Campaign for Freedom
of Information,
88 Old Street, EC1.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Fear of ending a theatrical link

From Sir Hugh Willatt and others

Sir, The Arts Council contemplates withdrawal of subsidy from no fewer than ten of the country's 50 or so regional theatres (report, July 9). The list includes the Bristol Old Vic, the Belgrade in Coventry and others created by remarkable effort since the war. As we were closely involved, in the places concerned as well as London, in the growth of these national assets, we feel justified in making some comments.

The regional companies grew from the efforts of local citizens and later with the close involvement of local authorities. They flourished because of the talent and dedication of the theatrical profession — the artists who created the policies, made the choices and gave to each its special though naturally varying quality.

In some the standard was, and still is, very high indeed. All provide training and experience to actors, directors and designers in television as well as the theatre.

The Arts Council was there to respond with money and advice and expert assessment of the needs of each enterprise, usually the minimum needs because then, as now, there were many conflicting claims, but just enough to avoid the heavy deficits of today. Its regularity could be relied on.

It is unrealistic to believe that these theatres can survive, and certainly not at present standards, on grants from hard-pressed and rate-capped local authorities, and from fund-raising.

The tri-partite arrangement has worked creatively for nearly 40 years and produced a national investment which included a chain of new and reconstructed buildings. Is there not some breach of trust in abandoning it?

Of course some theatres have had periods but vitality can return, as we know from experience.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH WILLATT
(Secretary General,
Arts Council, 1968-75),
N. V. LINKLATER (Drama Director,
Arts Council, 1970-7),
D. G. ANDREWS (Deputy Drama
Director, Arts Council, 1970-81),
4 St Peter's Wharf,
Hammersmith Terrace, W6,
July 24.

Church finances

From Mr H. N. Battersby

Sir, Your editorial, "Back to the tithe" (July 23), does not tell half the story. Sir Michael Colman is not the first businessman to be First Church Estates Commissioner. His appointment is a sensible return to earlier practices.

In the early 1960s, when I worked for the commissioners (in a very junior capacity), the office was ruled by the late Lord Silsoe, a successful barrister and soldier, but above all a businessman, and the secretary was a chartered accountant, who had spent most of his career in the commissioners' office.

In those days the commissioners followed the sensible — and very profitable — policy of lending money for property development and taking an equity share in the resulting properties.

It was only when former civil servants, without business or City experience, were appointed that difficulties arose. The results do nothing for one's confidence in Treasury mandarins.

It is not Sir Michael Colman who should be apologising for the commissioners' losses.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH BATTERSBY,
11 Oaklands Drive,
Whittington,
Oswestry, Shropshire,
July 24.

Hawkesmoor splendour

From the Rector of Linehouse

Sir, Your third leader, "Eastward Ho!" (July 29), referred to Hawkesmoor's St Anne's Linehouse as "sinister", at a time when we are seeking to raise about £800,000 in order to complete the restoration of one of the architect's most beautiful buildings.

The "sinister" epithet is derived from Mr Peter Ackroyd's fictional work based upon his own fertile and brilliant imagination.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PEARCE,
Linehouse Rectory,
5 Newell Street, E14,
July 29.

Born survivors

From the Reverend Dr P. J. Galloway

Sir, Miss Margaret Broome's family (letter, July 28) has an impressive record of longevity, but I doubt if anyone can surpass the achievement of Jane Catherine, Lady Carew. Born at Holyhead in December 1798, she died at Woodstown, Co. Waterford, on November 12, 1901, aged nearly 103, having lived in three centuries.

Yours sincerely,
PETER GALLOWAY,
The Vicarage,
Lyncroft Gardens, NW6,
August 1.

OBITUARIES

KING BAUDOUIN OF THE BELGIANS

King Baudouin of the Belgians died from a heart attack while on holiday in Motril, Spain, on July 31 aged 62. He was born in Brussels on September 7, 1930.

King Baudouin of the Belgians was a kind, inconspicuous monarch for 42 years. Known as "Le Roi Triste" he was one of the few unifying forces in the intricate political struggle between Flanders and Wallonia, and his death leaves a power vacuum in a country that lies on the brink of division.

Baudouin was the model of the modern European monarch. When he visited his local golf club, he would habitually walk up to whoever he found on the first tee and ask to play a round with them. The colourful crowd of Belgians from war veterans to sun-tanned teenagers, gathered outside the palace yesterday was testimony to his widespread popularity.

His reign was dignified, conscientious and marked by tragedy; he was the understated monarch whose influence was subtle but pervasive in a comfortable, inward-looking country not noted for strident nationalism but where tradition and the Catholic church are still powerful forces.

The son of Leopold, Prince of Brabant, and Princess Astrid, the immensely popular and beautiful daughter of Princess Ingeborg of Sweden, he was pre-baptised, on the day of his birth, Baudouin Leopold Albert Charles Axel Marie Gustave, and was given the title Count of Hainaut.

Baudouin became crown prince at the age of three, when his grandfather, King Albert I, was killed in a mountaineering accident. It was the first tragedy in a life strewn with sadness: two years later, his mother Astrid was killed in a car crash. In the years before the war the young prince and his brother Albert and elder sister Josephine-Charlotte lived sheltered lives, educated in the Royal Palace at Laeken north of Brussels and spending holidays in Noordwijk in the Netherlands; he quickly became bilingual, an attribute vital to his future success as king.

On the outbreak of war in 1939 the children began a peripatetic existence, sheltered by governesses and



King Baudouin and his fiancée, Dona Fabiola de Mora y Aragon, in their first public appearance together, 1960.

shuffled around southern Belgium and France before heading south for Saint Sebastian in Spain. They then returned to Belgium, where the German invasion in 1940 shattered the lives of the royal family. The palace at Laeken was guarded by the Wehrmacht during the war. Leopold having surrendered to the Germans, ignoring the advice of his generals to fight or flee to London, Baudouin spent the rest of the war either as a German prisoner or as a refugee on foreign soil, while his father, who remarried in September, 1941, was spirited out of Belgium by the Germans to an "unknown destination".

In June 1944 the family was evacuated, crossing the Ardennes and into Luxembourg. They then travelled south to the castle at Hirschstein, on the Elbe, where they were reunited with Leopold. With his high walls and turrets, the castle was a virtual prison. In April the following year the family was moved to a chalet, less austere, in Austria, where it was liberated by a detachment of the American Seventh Army. While war-torn Belgium debated whether it wanted the family back, Baudouin completed his studies at the Calvin college in Geneva.

In March 1950, Belgium held a referendum on "la question royale".

Fifty-eight per cent of the population favoured Leopold's return. But the deep enmity that now divided the country, with Flemings openly accused of conspiracy with the Nazis, gave little chance to a king who had effectively bowed to Hitler without resistance. Belgium was suddenly on the brink of civil war, with the police shooting dead thirty demonstrators at an anti-Royalist rally.

Leopold abdicated in August 1950, and the bespectacled Baudouin acceded to the throne on his 21st birthday in 1951, the youngest monarch in Europe and the fifth King of the Belgians since independence from the Netherlands in 1830.

The young king was a quite different creature from his fiery and moustachioed forbears, who had ruled over Belgium's colony of Congo with iron fists. Known as *Bwana Kitoko* on the African continent, or the "good chief", Baudouin found himself powerless to prevent the newly-independent Zaire from falling into bloody civil war in 1960. The country troubled the king for the rest of his reign, and his good relationship with the dictator Mobutu Sese Seko was of questionable value in international terms. He made his last visit to Africa, to Rwanda, another former colony, in 1987. "Baudouin the African: the heart and the distance," commented the leading daily *Le Soir* yesterday.

In 1960 Baudouin married Dona Fabiola de Mora y Aragon, the tall, auburn-haired daughter of a line of the Spanish royal family, and two years his senior. The marriage was always happy, but punctuated by great sadness that visibly reflected itself in the king's demeanour. Fabiola suffered three miscarriages, and the couple remained childless.

"For many years we struggled to fathom the meaning of this sorrow. But gradually we came to understand that, having no children ourselves, we have more room in our hearts for loving all, truly all, children," Baudouin told the nation some years ago. Fabiola's deep catholicism and her strong influence over her husband led the country to the brink of constitutional crisis in 1990 when parliament tried to legalise strictly limited abortion. The king advocated for 24 hours to allow

parliament to pass the new law. "I would sooner abdicate than legalise abortion," he said at the time. "Does freedom of conscience apply to everyone except the King?" Polls in popular newspapers like *La Dernière Heure* showed that over 75 per cent of Belgians believed Baudouin had acted correctly.

Baudouin, by now a frail and stooped figure, did not enjoy the best of health. Speculation that he might pass the throne on to his brother Albert began two years ago, when he underwent a successful operation for prostate cancer. Six months later he received heart by-pass surgery in Paris, from which he also appeared to have made a full recovery. In the same year he celebrated forty years on the Belgian throne.

Much of the king's energy in the last years was devoted to preventing the split up of his country, where high-tech Flanders believes it is paying too heavily for smog-suckled Wallonia's social security bill. Yet most Belgians distrust their politicians, whom they believe guilty of playing games with federalism: they have sided with Baudouin and held colourful pro-Belgium marches through Brussels over the past months.

In his independence day speech last year Baudouin compared those seeking to break up Belgium with the war-mongers in the former Yugoslavia, and called for a federal but united country. Such a Belgium, he said, would be an example for a future federal Europe. "He was the symbol of Belgian unity, which he worked passionately, discreetly but very influentially to preserve," Jacques Delors said yesterday. "He was also an activist for European construction."

Recent television images of Baudouin showed the king where he wanted to be, close to Belgium's people and far from its petty politicians; talking with garbage collectors in the streets, welcoming Belgium's first astronaut, Dirk Frimout, to the Royal Palace, shaking the hands of children and joking with naval officers.

He is survived by Queen Fabiola. It is now assumed that Baudouin's brother Albert will pass the throne on to his 33-year-old son Philippe.

CHARLES HUMPHREYS

Charles Frederick Humphreys, barristers' clerk, died in Torquay on July 7 aged 82. He was born in Chelsea on October 27, 1910.



FOR some thirty years a neatly dressed man with dark glasses and white stick was a familiar sight about the Temple. He was regarded as the doyen of senior barristers' clerks.

On leaving school at the age of 16, Charles Humphreys became a junior clerk in a set of chambers in Temple Gardens. After the outbreak of war he became, despite his increasing blindness, one of the youngest of senior clerks. His set of chambers moved its location more than once during the war years, and in 1953 found roomier quarters at 3 Pump Court.

For some time thereafter prominent members of other circuits were as numerous in the chambers as Western Circuiters; but although some of them remained, the set became a leading set of Western Circuit chambers.

During Humphreys's time, 3 Pump Court produced several Old Bailey and county court judges. Official Referees, old-style Recorders and chairmen of Quarter Sessions, and diocesan chancellors. It harboured three Judges Advocate of the Fleet in succession. One of these, The Hon. E. S. Montagu QC, was responsible during the war for the ingenious exercise in counter-intelligence featured in the film *The Man Who Never Was* — when the secret service dropped a dead man bearing false documents into the sea to confuse the Germans. Perhaps the most notable of those under Humphreys's wing was Geoffrey Howe (now Lord Howe of Aberavon QC).

From his earliest years Humphreys suffered from an incurable eye condition which progressively restricted his field of vision. But with the assistance of his lieutenants Leonard Williams and John Graham, he managed to keep abreast of the constantly changing engagements of some twenty barristers without apparent difficulty. What was astonishing was not only his ability to memorise the time and place of their future court appearances, but his knowledge and understanding of the contents of their briefs. It was said that he could identify the footsteps of every individual in chambers.

Humphreys retired with his wife Leila to Torquay. Leila, who survives him, acted as his eyes, guide, and friend.

Thanks to her he could describe in detail the scenes in plays they had attended, and the fine view of Torbay from the windows of their flat.

Humphreys became something of a local celebrity in Torquay and was often interviewed by the press. On one occasion a reporter enquired sympathetically how he coped with shaving: "No problem at all" was his reply. "I have a Braille mirror".

COUNT EDWARD RACZYNSKI

Count Edward Raczyński, Hon GBE, Polish Ambassador to the Court of St James's 1934-1945, President of the Polish Government-in-Exile 1979-1986, died in London on July 30 aged 101. He was born in Zakopane, Poland, on December 19, 1891.

ONE could pinpoint the exact date when Count Edward Raczyński became not only the diplomatic and political pivot-figure of the Polish government in Britain, but also, after the war, its leader and moral authority for Poles throughout the country. The date was September 1, 1939.

That Friday (barely a week after putting his signature to the Polish-British treaty of mutual assistance on August 25), Raczyński received news of the German invasion of Poland, and requested an urgent meeting with the Foreign Secretary, Lord Halifax. The two met at 10 Downing Street and discussed the problem in a business-like manner. Raczyński opened the talk, saying: "The Polish government considers that there occurred a case of aggression under Article 1 of the Polish-British Agreement of mutual assistance." Lord Halifax re-

plied: "I have very little doubt about it." Two days later Britain went to war.

For fifty years Raczyński was one of the key figures of the Polish Government-in-Exile, consulted by presidents and prime ministers and, during the years of communist rule in Poland, figures from the Polish opposition. Politicians, historians and writers all made their way to his flat in Lennox Gardens, Knightsbridge, on their visits to the West. To them he was not just a symbol of Poland's true status as an independent nation, but a wise statesman who even in later life retained a formidable grasp of the complexities of European politics.

Among them, in the early 1980s, was Lech Walesa, then leader of the Polish trade union, Solidarity. In 1991 Walesa was able to make a return visit as President of the newly-independent Poland. It was an emotional day for Raczyński.

Raczyński came from a prominent noble family who owned the 25,000-acre estate of Rogalin near the western city of Poznan. His early years were dominated by his mother, Countess Roza, a fiercely patriotic woman. He was educated in Krakow, Leipzig and at the London School of

Economics. During the first world war he saw many of the family's houses go up in flames. His early ambition was to join the army, and in 1918 he was enlisted into the Austrian Army — Poland not then officially existing as a country — but poor eyesight put paid to his military career. He went instead to Cracow where he gained a doctorate in law from the Jagiellonian University.

Afterwards he was posted to a desk job at the military section of the Polish legation in Bern and from there to the emerging Polish foreign service. Raczyński was sent to London, Copenhagen and Geneva as the Polish representative at the League of Nations, and delegate to the Disarmament Conference, 1932-34. His last promotion was to the London ambassadorship in November, 1934.

There his cool, reasonable manner quickly made him friends at Whitehall. In 1925 Lloyd George had famously refused to shake Raczyński's hand on the occasion of the diplomat's first marriage to an English girl, Joyce Markham. But this time London was duly impressed and the count found no difficulties talking to Chamberlain or later to Churchill.

In particular, his willingness to compromise in debate after the hot-headedness of some of his predecessors played an important part in convincing the government that Poland was a country on which to make a stand. As war loomed, his insistence that Nazi propaganda claims about Poland's atrocities to its German minorities were pure fiction, helped to steel the Chamberlain cabinet's fabled resolve.

Later, when the then Polish president Wladyslaw Raczkiewicz and his government landed in Britain having fled the French collapse of 1940, Raczyński was the only one of the Polish top brass who could speak any English. This made him an invaluable interpreter and mediator.

Raczyński was also a natural performer on the radio, and his broadcasts on the BBC's Polish service during the war made him well-known as the voice of Free Poland. His opinions were delivered in a thin yet precise voice which carried the unmistakable — to Polish ears — French accent of the aristocrat. But he was a natural communicator at all levels, disliking big words and pomposity, and never striking a false note.

While not actively seeking

political power, his excellent contacts and good English resulted in him acting, from 1941-43, as both ambassador and head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the exiled government.

In 1943 a fatal blow to the cause of the London Poles was struck when General Sikorski, then Polish prime minister and commander-in-chief of the Polish forces in Britain, was killed in a plane crash. Raczyński blamed Stalin for the "accident", which he believed to be sabotage.

The following year the terms of the Yalta conference effectively allowed Stalin to annex eastern Europe. While Raczyński was understandably vexed, he characteristically bore no personal grudge towards Churchill.

In July 1945, Raczyński was informed by the Foreign Office that he and his government in London were no longer recognised by Britain. Although his greatest wish was to return to his homeland, doing so while the Communists remained in power was unthinkable to him. And so, although he continued to list his address in *Who's Who* as the family home in Warsaw, he remained for the rest of his life in London.

He remained active on behalf of the Polish community sitting on the Anglo-Polish Reconciliation Committee, which negotiated terms for those Polish soldiers wishing to stay in Britain after the war — and stayed at the heart of émigré politics.

When in 1954 the old president of the Government-in-Exile, August Zaleski, refused to make way for what should have been the new president, Tomasz Arceiszewski, after the customary seven years in office, Raczyński set up a "Council of Three" jointly with Arceiszewski and General Anders. This council then be-



The monocled Raczyński, centre, at a dinner for the Roumanian foreign minister, in April 1939

came for some years the "second" Government-in-Exile, although its main function, as Raczyński saw it, was to defuse the crisis in leadership affecting the primary government.

Ultimately Raczyński found that arguing over government when there was no country to govern was ludicrous. His natural liberal inclination was to find points on which politicians and countries might agree, and in this belief he found himself becoming increasingly actively involved with the Liberal International. This was a movement started by Lloyd George and others after the first world war to promote the idea of international law and human rights. He also represented Poland in the

European Movement from its foundation in 1948.

Raczyński was a well-read and highly literate man. He loved Polish poetry. Jan Kochanowski was his favourite poet — and was a published author himself in both Polish and English. Particularly impressive was his autobiographical account *In Allied London* (1963) — a book which *The Times* reviewer called "dreadfully sad" while praising it for its dignity and restraint. His translation of Edward Fitzgerald's *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*, started before the war, was finally included in the same volume as some of his own early poems in 1960.

Raczyński was an optimist to the last. He saw the rise and

fall of communism as another volatile chapter in the ever repeating cycles of history. As for Poland he never lost faith in its re-birth, and throughout the darkest days never failed to support even the slightest sign of new life emerging. Yet his optimism was wisely cautious.

In 1979 he succeeded Stanislaw Ostrowski to become President of the Polish Government-in-Exile at the age of 87. He saw his job as helping to unite the different political factions within the London Polish community. "In exile people tend to argue about unimportant things when at heart they agree on all the major points" he said. He retired at the age of 95.

On his 100th birthday — celebrated with a party at the Polish embassy — he received an honorary knighthood from the Queen. He was also awarded the Polish Order of Merit by President Walesa and made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Pius IX, the highest order the Holy See can bestow on someone who is not a head of state.

On a bleak November day in 1934, when he first arrived in London to take up his embassy post, Raczyński made a note in his diary regretting that his chief had sent him to a backwater instead of back to Geneva, a post he had asked for in a place which he considered then to be the centre of international diplomacy. Little did he know that in his backwater he would reach the greatest heights of his career.

He married first in 1925 Joyous Markham who died in 1930, then in 1932 Cecylia Jaroszynska, who died in 1962, and finally, in 1990, Anielia Mieczyslawska. He is survived by her and his three daughters from his second marriage.

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FORD PLEA FOR HELSINKI PROMISES TO BE KEPT

From Richard Davy and David Spanier, Helsinki, Aug 1

In a solemn ceremony the bulky document known as the Final Act of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe was signed today by leaders of 35 nations of East and West Europe, the United States and Canada. Only Albania was missing as it has been since the start of the conference, in deference to the Chinese contention that the conference is a Soviet trick.

The signatories sat at a long line of desks on an otherwise empty stage facing the huge auditorium of the Finlandia Hall. The document was brought to each in turn, starting with Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor of West Germany. The order was alphabetical according to the French designations of the states as agreed at the preparatory stage of the conference nearly three years ago.

Second came Herr Erich Honecker, party leader of East Germany, then President Ford and on down the line to President Tito of Yugoslavia. Mr Wilson was thirteenth. Most of the leaders joked and talked as the book went down the line. Herr Schmidt appeared

ON THIS DAY

August 2 1975

The signatories of the Helsinki Conference pledged agreement on the permanence of post-war frontiers and of the recognition of human rights. A number of violations of the latter in Communist countries were recorded during the following years.

To interpret a humorous exchange between President Ford and Herr Honecker.

After the ceremony, President Kekkonen of Finland said that the Final Act constituted "a serious attempt to lay foundations on which we and the coming generations can build a world better than the one we have to live in". This was achieved, he said, by following the ancient Finnish proverb: "Know your land and give others their due."

Earlier in the day, President Ford's speech, the theme of which was "Peace is not a piece of paper", had earned the longest applause of any speaker at the conference.

"First, détente is an evolutionary process, not a static condition," Mr Ford said. "Many formidable challenges yet remain."

Second, the success of the détente process depends on new behaviour patterns that give life to all our solemn declarations. The goals we are stating today are the yardstick by which our performance will be measured."

The people of all Europe and, he assured the conference, the people of North America, were thoroughly tired of having their hopes raised and then shattered by empty words and unfulfilled pledges. "We had better say what we mean and mean what we say, or we will have the anger of our citizens to answer."

Speaking in a clear, firm voice, he said that finally, there must be an acceptance of mutual obligation. "Détente, as I have often said, must be a two-way street. Tensions cannot be eased by one side alone. Both sides must want détente and work to achieve it."

Much more remained to be done before they could congratulate themselves. Military competition must be restrained. Crises must not be manipulated for unilateral advantages. "That could lead us again to the brink of war."

"The process of negotiation must be sustained, not at a snail's pace, but with demonstrated enthusiasm and visible progress."

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from Sir Ron
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Barclays near to
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THE TIMES

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MONDAY AUGUST 2 1993



Fast driving: Hodges square cuts during her important second-wicket stand of 85 with Brittin for England against New Zealand in the World Cup final at Lord's yesterday

Women on top of the world

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

LORD'S (New Zealand won toss): England beat New Zealand by 67 runs

EVEN the big fish in the garden pond of women's cricket seldom get a second chance at Lord's. Jo Chamberlain has waited six years to erase the pain of her England debut there and yesterday, as the World Cup was won amid the noisy euphoria of a 5,000 crowd, she did so with a style, strength and timing to snuff out every New Zealand advance.

Chamberlain is a delivery driver, sturdily built and with a multi-faceted power to her game that many men's team's England included, should envy. Where cricket is concerned, she is a doer, not a thinker, and on a day that advertised the women's game as never before, she did all but everything.

It was her violently struck 38 from 33 balls that lifted the England innings above dangerous mediocrity. It was her lively left-arm bowling that ended the most threatening stand in the New Zealand reply and her direct hit from cover, athletically precise, that terminated the innings of the

prolific Debbie Hockley and, with it, the contest.

Dreams are made of such days. Nightmares attended her, and England's, previous visit in 1987 when, as a nervy 18-year-old, cruelly thrown the new ball, she was so wayward to two hungry Australian openers that England were effectively beaten inside ten overs.

Since that deflating day, women's cricket in England has hobbled along, borrowing a helping hand here and there, the keyword survival, never advance. Even this World Cup has been staged on a wish and a promise, but today, nourished by live television coverage, acres of newspaper and a trophy that England have not held for 20 years, the sport has its chance, maybe its last chance, to secure a better future.

Nobody yesterday would begrudge it. MCC helped to underwrite the tournament, but grossly underestimated its appeal, and the ground's biggest paying attendance this year for a game not involving Australia was testimony to the way interest has snowballed.

So too, on this evidence, has the confidence and expertise of Karen Smithies' England, frozen into defeat by this same opposition only 12 days ago.

Smithies works for Corals, the bookmakers, who made New Zealand 7-4 on to win this match. They soon looked false odds — not instantly, for England lived precariously amid early New Zealand fumbles — but from the overs in which Jan Brittin and Carole Hodges, accomplished and assured, put on 85 for the second wicket.

New Zealand had batted second five times in the competition and never needed to chase more than 96. Suddenly, they had conceded almost that number without taking a wicket and their accurate bowlers — even Julie Harris, whose 14 previous wickets included a hat-trick of leg

before against West Indies — were looking blunt.

Brittin had taken control, so it seemed, when she fell 15 minutes before lunch to a sharp catch at mid-wicket that Karen Gunn acclaimed with expressions of sheer relief. The next ten overs were wasted as Hodges, her running between the wickets suddenly haunted, was becalmed. When she was stumped, playing a stroke she will remember with no fondness, and Helen Kilmner was immediately run out, the England momentum was lost.

It was restored, and more, by Chamberlain and the busy, selfless Barbara Daniels. In nine overs, they put on 57 and, for the first time in the game,

the ball was worked into gaps and runs were stolen boldly. When Chamberlain was out, aiming something outrageous towards the Tavern, she walked backwards towards the pavilion, shaking her fist to encourage Daniels onwards.

The response was all anyone could have wished and England, with 81 from their last 12 overs, had set a mighty challenge, even to a team that had eclipsed the Australians by ten wickets only three days earlier. Much rested on Hockley, a 30-year-old physiotherapist and, as the prime minister watched admiringly, the Christchurch girl in her white batting helmet — a rare sight among women — kept the game alive and the crowd excitedly shrill.

Chamberlain, the fastest of the English bowlers, had this time been held back to first change. The move was vindicated. New Zealand were 51 for one, and proceeding ominously, when she had Kirsty Bond stunningly caught at second slip by Suzie Kitson. Hockley, deprived of her running mate, lost impetus and the hammer blow was struck in the 27th over when she was beaten by inches by Chamberlain's bulletted right-arm throw from cover.

When, for good measure, she caught Emily Drummond, the man-of-the-match award was Chamberlain's beyond question. But hers was only the epitome of England's cricket, which embodied tight bowling — Smithies' 12 overs of frustrating flight cost only 14 runs — and tigerish fielding.

New Zealand were beaten, for the first time in the event, with 4.5 overs unused. In fact, they were beaten as soon as Hockley was out and the hundreds who massed in front of the pavilion to cheer some emotional presentations had known it.

England's first World Cup since 1973 was richly merited, but now it must not be wasted. The women's game has bumbled for too long, its image drawn messily in the male psyche somewhere between suspicion and condescension. Comparisons with the men's game are gratuitous and absurd; it must stand on its own. This was its shop window and, if the women are shrewd, the money-making sale starts here. This final illustrated the athleticism of the game and the status to which it can aspire; what is needed now is firmer and more enterprising administration.

Sarah Potter, page 21

Baker's victory is boost for cup

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE European team for the Ryder Cup next month is now taking the sort of shape necessary for Europe to stand a realistic chance of regaining the trophy they lost two years ago. Peter Baker's victory in the Scandinavian Masters in Sweden yesterday has moved him to eighth place in the points table. As it was his second victory in three months, he is both a man in form and a winner.

"What we desperately need in our team is winners," Nick Faldo said yesterday. Baker clearly has both those qualities.

There are four tournaments left before Bernard Gallacher announces his team on August 30. The leading nine players in the points table are automatically selected; the three remaining places are at Gallacher's discretion.

José María Olazábal dropped to ninth place in the Ryder Cup standings after finishing equal seventeenth in Gothenburg. He will almost certainly be pushed further down the table because he does not intend to play in Europe again before the team is selected.

Steven Richardson's recent good form is encouraging, though he is only twelfth at present. So is Baker's. "I'm thinking about playing in the Austrian Open next week and I may yet decide to compete in the German Open at the end of the month," he said. He will decide later whether to pull out of the World Series in the United States in order to play in Germany.

Christie to meet Lewis in Zurich

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

LINFORD Christie and Carl Lewis, who collected £100,000 each when they met over 100 metres at Gateshead on Friday night, will meet again in a grand prize meeting in Zurich on Wednesday.

Res Bruegger, the promoter of the Weltklasse meeting, said yesterday: "I had been in contact with the respective managers of Carl Lewis and Linford Christie long before they raced against each other in Gateshead on Friday."

"I can confirm they are due to meet again in the 100 metres in Zurich on Wednesday."

Bruegger did not say how much each athlete would receive for his night's work. The meeting, the richest in the world, has a budget of \$3.5 million (about £2.3 million).

Christie, the Olympic champion, beat Lewis, the world record-holder, at Gateshead. Lewis finished third behind his fellow American, Jon Drummond. Lewis has failed to win in five races this season.

Colin Jackson pulled out of the Cologne grand prize meeting yesterday, raising fears about his fitness for the world championships, which start in Stuttgart on August 13.

The Briton, who broke the European 110 metres hurdles record last week in Italy and is the favourite for Stuttgart, said he had picked up a slight foot injury in his hotel room on Friday and did not want to risk aggravating it by running yesterday.

"I hope the slight damage to the ball of my right foot will clear up soon," he said. "The most important thing for me is the world championships, so I didn't want to risk it."

"It felt fine on Wednesday and on Friday morning but I trod awkwardly in my hotel room."

Jackson was not sure if he would decide to run at the meeting in Zurich on Wednesday evening. "At this moment I am not 100 per cent sure what will be my next race," he said.

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Dashing Maynard jogs selectors' memories

By IVO TENNANT

NEATH (second day of three): the Australians, with six second-innings wickets in hand, are 197 runs ahead of Glamorgan

ANY England selector who turns up in Wales these days — and there truly was a sighting last week — is liable to receive a very thick ear. It is best not to think what might happen if one arrives as the side for the fifth Cornhill Test is announced this morning, and Matthew Maynard is not included in it.

For if ever there was a century which bespoke Test class, this was it. On the day the selectors convened with England's new captain, Maynard made 132 off only 115 balls. Of course the Australians will be a different proposition at Edgbaston: no doubt Hughes and Warne will tell you that they kept something back, but no one can have played them any better all summer.

Last week Dennis Amis watched Maynard make 84 off 63 balls at Swansea. It was a one-day match and the suspicion lingers that the selectors still see him as primarily a one-day player. Yet he was averaging 45 in first-class cricket before batting yesterday and is, according to Alan

Jones, Glamorgan's coach, considerably more responsible than when he last played for England five years ago.

The attack Maynard faced here lacked May, who has a hamstring strain and may not be fit to play on Thursday. Julian, too, has an injury and Taylor knee trouble, so the

Australians had plenty to concern themselves with before Maynard took his toll of a number of half-volleys on his legs. Using Zoehrer as a leg spinner at Edgbaston, for a start. But they were trying, make no mistake.

They, too, had batted prolifically. The pitch is more even-tempered than it can have been when W.G. made a pair here in the last century. Off his first seven balls, Maynard took three fours. His first 50 runs came from 42 balls; his second 50 from 31. In all there were 25 fours and a five. And he uses a lighter bat, one of 2lb.10oz these days, which shows that you do not have to deploy the sledgehammer of a Gooch or Botham. If you discount Chapple's century off joke bowling for Lancashire, Maynard's century off 73 balls was as quick as any this season.

He was dropped by Border at first slip, and by Boon at cover when on 122. The Australians looked jaded in the field, and to no one's surprise: theirs has been a relentless

schedule of cricket and travel. Warne, who never seems to have a day off, picked up some wickets once Maynard was out — and an admonition from umpire Whitehead for over-doing his appealing.

How well Maynard read him was a matter of surmise, for he was keeping his thoughts on all issues to himself. Suffice to say that Warne was not mastered. It was, though, Waugh who finally removed him with the penultimate ball before lunch.

In the last 30 years, three Glamorgan batsmen have taken centuries off the Australians in this fixture, and all three were Pakistanis.

It was not as if the entertainment finished there, even though Richards was taking the match off. Cottey, who had put on 176 in 30 overs with Maynard, finished with 68 and Hemp batted long enough to show signs of a distinct talent. Glamorgan then declared, 51 behind, and to judge by the way Slater took the attack to their opening

bowlers, there will be a reciprocal gesture today.

There were one or two breathtaking drives in his innings of 43, made off 52 balls. Had he continued like that, he would almost have emulated Maynard. But Croft held a sharp return catch and Thomas fortuitously removed Metson and Healy. The Australians finished 197 runs ahead and do not forget that they have a few useful performers still to come in.



Maynard: responsible

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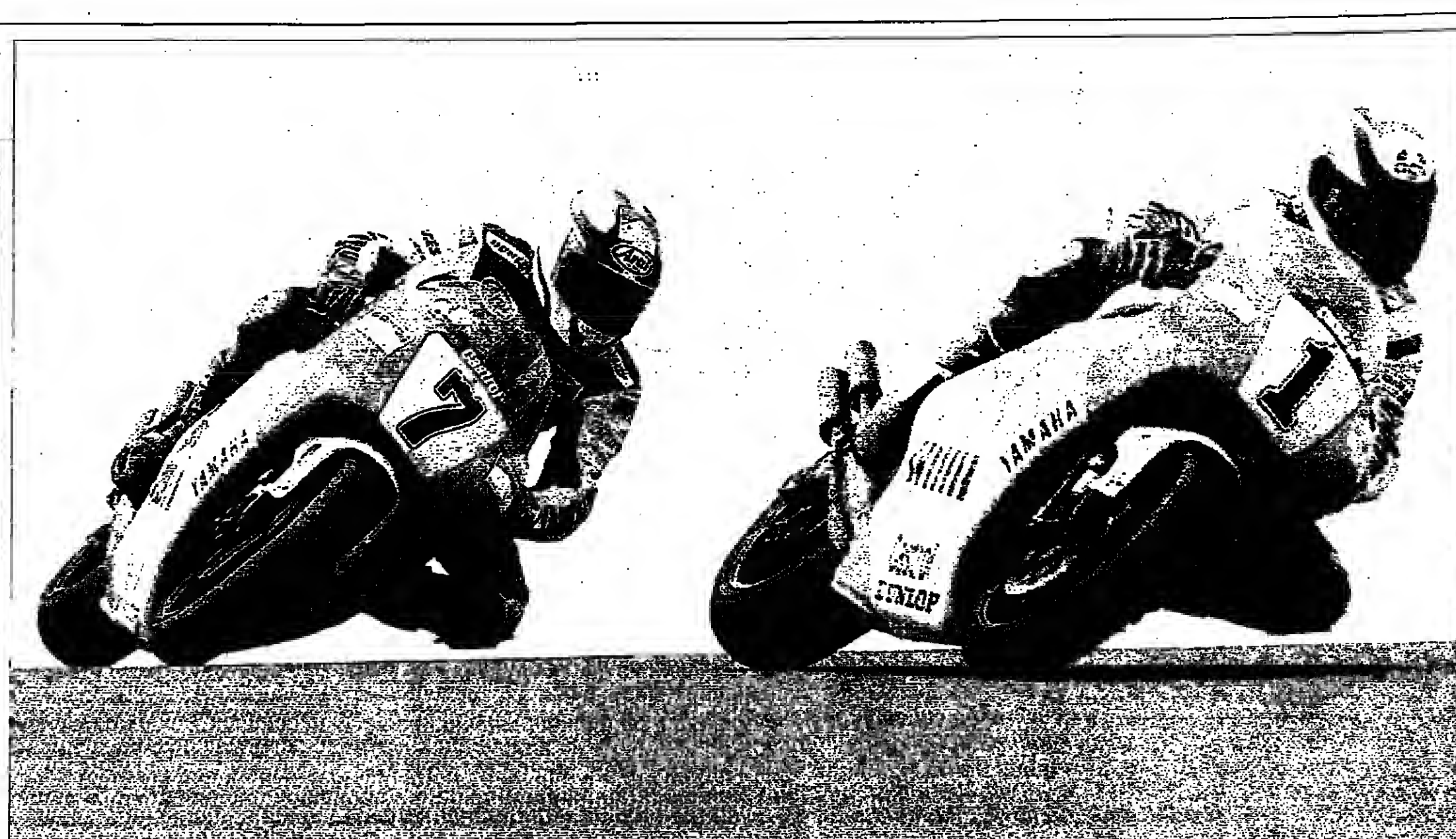
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On track for victory: Cadalora, left, pursues Rainey, his Yamaha team-mate, before going on to win the British grand prix by more than three seconds yesterday. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Schwantz takes mortal blow from Mr Perfect

In a tangle of flying, cart-wheeling motorcycles, in the British grand prix at Donington yesterday, Kevin Schwantz's fleeting advantage in one of the most enduring rivalries in sport all but disappeared.

Physically, he was not badly injured, even though his Lucky Strike Suzuki rolled onto his stomach and he had to be helped from the track. Mentally, though, he may have been dealt a mortal blow by his Californian nemesis, Wayne Rainey.

Rainey, known as "Mr Perfect" in the motorcycling world, has won the riders' world championship for the last three years. Schwantz, 29, an ebullient Texan, has ridden in the same number of races, scored the same number of victories, but has never won the world title.

He went into yesterday's race, the tenth of a 14-race series, with a commanding 23-



Oliver Holt watches as the world champion closes on his main rival by finishing second at Donington

point lead, but Rainey, whose angular features and pointed nose give him the look of a scavenger crow, has hunted him down in years past.

Here, starting from seventh place on the grid and still wearing protective bandaging on knuckles badly grazed in a qualifying crash on Saturday, Rainey shot into the lead, out of trouble before the Old Hairpin on the first lap.

With Rainey just yards ahead, Michael Doohan, the Australian, ran into the back of another rider and then fell sideways onto Schwantz, who was in second place.

Rainey led until the penulti-

mate lap, when he was overtaken by his Yamaha team-mate, Luca Cadalora, who went on to win his first 500cc grand prix by more than three seconds. The Scot, Niall MacKenzie, earned the honour of being top-placed Briton when he overtook Carl Fogarty yards from the end.

The 20 points Rainey earned for his runner's-up position took him to within three of Schwantz. "At least nobody got hurt bad," the Texan said. "I felt pretty bad about it at first, but you have to put these things behind you. I just want to get out there again and get my world title lead back."

But Rainey is right there with him now and may not let

him go. Others had written him off before the race, questioned his continuing motivation in a sport he has dominated for so long, his desire now that he has a son.

His determination to keep riding defies all the rules of common sense. At 32 has won everything there is to be won and is confronted in every race by the dangers of his profession.

Just look at Doohan. He led the world championship last year and then broke his left leg so badly in a crash that it nearly had to be amputated.

He broke his toe in qualifying on Friday here, then crashed spectacularly yesterday. Last night, after he limped from the track, he began talking about next year's championship challenge.

The machismo born of risking serious injury is part of the attraction that brings enthusiasts flocking here in their tens of thousands. Their reward is

the sight of Rainey, wheeling briefly at the start of the pit straight then crouching low over his handlebars as he accelerates towards Redgate Corner. As he nears the corner, he jerks himself suddenly upright to slow the bike and prepares himself for the familiar lean into the bend, his knee scraping the kerb, the machine at a crazy angle.

Whatever else, Rainey's reward is not fame. This is a high-risk but low-profile sport. He was stopped by a

security guard on his way into the paddock here yesterday and asked to produce his pass. "My motivation is simple," he said on Friday, leaning quietly against his motor home. "I do not feel I have reached my potential yet and I want to keep learning. I just feel happy when I am out by myself on my bike, completely in control."

It is harder to keep your dominance than it is to achieve it in the first place. Kevin is in the position that I

am usually in and I want it back. It is hard to be buddies when you are fighting for the same thing and we certainly do not hang out together. But we stop and talk if we pass each other in the paddock."

Rainey's success has at least brought him material comforts, luxury is denied many of the riders on the lower rungs of the 500cc ladder. Cadalora may have won the race, Rainey the day, but they shared the limelight with MacKenzie, who is competing on a privateer bike after being jettisoned by the factory teams who do not employ a single British rider.

His is a race-to-race existence where finishing in the points to satisfy sponsors is a necessity. Yesterday, he felt free to "go for it" for the first time this season. "Being a Scot, I might have a few drinks tonight," he said. "The team might have a few steaks, too, instead of spam."

DOMINGTON RESULTS

LEADING POSITIONS (50 laps, 120.650 km): 1. L. Cadalora (Yamaha), 2. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 3. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 4. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 5. Michael Doohan (Yamaha), 6. Luca Cadalora (Yamaha), 7. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 8. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 9. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 10. Michael Doohan (Yamaha), 11. Luca Cadalora (Yamaha), 12. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 13. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 14. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 15. Michael Doohan (Yamaha), 16. Luca Cadalora (Yamaha), 17. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 18. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 19. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 20. Michael Doohan (Yamaha), 21. Luca Cadalora (Yamaha), 22. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 23. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 24. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 25. Michael Doohan (Yamaha), 26. Luca Cadalora (Yamaha), 27. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 28. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 29. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 30. Michael Doohan (Yamaha), 31. Luca Cadalora (Yamaha), 32. Wayne Rainey (Yamaha), 33. Niall MacKenzie (Yamaha), 34. Carl Fogarty (Honda), 35. 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Kent pile up big total to strengthen challenge

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

CANTERBURY (Kent won toss): Kent beat Leicestershire by 63 runs

KENT will thank nobody for reminding them they have not won a trophy of any sort since 1978, a sequence of non-achievement exceeded only by Glamorgan, Gloucestershire and, for obvious reasons, Durham. The Sunday League may not be the prize they crave above all others, but it is the only cup left to them this year and, on yesterday's form, they will expect to win it.

A score of 327 for six, the highest in the competition this year, proved to be 63 runs more than Leicestershire could make in reply, manfully though they tried. Kent returned to the top of the table, two points clear of Glamorgan, who have played one game fewer. Everything might depend on the final match of the season here when the visitors are, ironically, Glamorgan.

Snowed under by the sheer weight of runs, Boon and Briers refused to buckle. The Leicestershire openers made 138 in 29 overs, with Boon going on to complete a first century in Sunday cricket, and the best score in the competition this season, but Kent were never going to concede this match. Penn's dismissal of Whitaker in the 36th over removed whatever doubts there were.

This was the third time Kent have passed 300 this season. In doing so, they overtook the 310 Sussex scored against Surrey at Hove in the opening fixture and kept in front of Nottinghamshire, who reached 314 for seven at the Oval yesterday.

Some of the striking was startling, not least the way Cowdrey found 43 from 19 balls in a six-wicket stand off 75 with Fleming in just five overs. Leicestershire could bowl only two balls he failed to score off, the pick of his hits a flat-batted six towards the pavilion that Benson, ten yards away at long on, initial-

ly lined up and then, as it carried beyond him, waved goodbye.

Two balls later, Cowdrey swung Wells to deep midwicket, whereupon Fleming ended the innings with a flourish. It is not often that he is trumped in this type of cricket. Here, an unbeaten 67 from 40 balls made him appear a slowcoach by comparison, so dramatic was Cowdrey's contribution.

The shaping of their innings was ideal. Ward and Hooper are the most prolific run-makers in the competition this season and Hooper added 64 most attractively before Whitaker ran from midwicket towards mid-on where, having misjudged the catch, he eventually took it with a dive which was entirely necessary.

Long alone missed out. If he was surprised to see Benson stop his firm cut at backward point, he was even more surprised to watch the throw hit the stumps as he almost as a challenge to the fielder, ambled towards the crease. On other days, in other situations, it would have been a waste of his wicket.

By then, Taylor was entrenched and he proceeded to make 57. The last ten overs realised 122, 54 going to Fleming, who, in all, hit eight fours and a six. Kentish crowds have long been familiar with his explosive qualities and were not phased by the frantic later stages.

Leicestershire did their best but were always behind the rate. Briers was taken well at midwicket by Fleming, who dove to hold a misdirected drive. Boon, surviving a chance on 60 when Marsh demolished the stumps but failed to get to a reverse sweep which went awry, batted through the innings for an unbeaten 135. It was a noble effort, but on this extraordinary day, heroism was required and there was none forthcoming.



Stretching a point: Fleming, of Kent, strikes a boundary off the bowling of Parsons yesterday

Ward at powerful best for Surrey

BY WALTER GAMMIE

DAVID Ward rediscovered the buccannery form that has proved so elusive this season to hit a century off 87 balls in 99 minutes at the Oval yesterday that hoisted Surrey above a formidable Nottinghamshire total of 314 for seven and kept them in third place behind Kent and Glamorgan in the Axa Equity & Law League.

Surrey's Sunday league record has long been a source of grief to their supporters — fourth place last year is their highest finish. When Nottinghamshire, given an express

start by Paul Johnson's 55 and whirled to dizzy heights by a punishing maiden Sunday century by Chris Cairns that included seven sixes, the outlook was familiarly bleak. Martin Bicknell, back in action after a knee-injury strain and intent on keeping his England place, had ten overs dispatched for 73 runs.

When Ward arrived, Surrey were faltering at 88 for four, but Graham Thorpe, who made 94, was entrenched and the pair cut loose to add 159 runs in 20 overs to set up a splendid four-wicket victory, completed by Alec Stewart, who finished on 42 not out.

Asif Din and John Stephenson scored centuries and carried their hats for Warwickshire and Essex against Hampshire and Worcestershire respectively — but to no avail. Robin Smith, with 118 not out, and Paul Terry, 74 not out, hustled Hampshire past Warwickshire's 232 for six with nine wickets and 51 overs to spare, and Graeme Hick, short of runs of late, hit a fine 120 not out to shepherd Worcestershire to a four-wicket victory at Chelmsford.

The neglected talents of Alan Wells were again prominent for Sussex as his innings of 69 not out secured a two-wicket win over Durham, who as in the championship match, found the new, sharper-mode bowling of Neil Lenham, who took a Sunday-best five for 28, too much in struggling to 194 for nine.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Kent v Leicestershire

CANTERBURY (third day of four): Kent, with all second-innings wickets in hand, nose 222 ahead of Leicestershire. First Innings: Kent 249 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190. Second Innings: Kent 138 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190.

Leicestershire: First Innings 190 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190. Second Innings: Leicestershire 138 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190.

Gloucestershire v Derbyshire

CHELSEA (third day of four): Gloucestershire, with two second-innings wickets in hand, nose 222 ahead of Derbyshire. First Innings: Gloucestershire 249 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190. Second Innings: Gloucestershire 138 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190.

Essex v Worcestershire

CHELMSFORD (third day of four): Essex, with two second-innings wickets in hand, nose 222 ahead of Worcestershire. First Innings: Essex 249 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190. Second Innings: Essex 138 (J. Wells 81, T. J. Boon 72, M. A. E. 44) 1-190.

Surrey v Nottinghamshire

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Durham v Sussex

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Women fulfil impossible dream at Lord's

Sarah Potter, a former England player, sees a male bastion of sport breached with relish

Maybe it is different for the men but when a young woman cricketer pushes open the little white gate to step on to the pitch at Lord's, something spidery crawls up the lining of her throat. Both teams in the World Cup final yesterday would have felt that flutter of tension and yet exultation of the spirit which pilgrims are surely supposed to experience in a hallowed place.

It is even better than sweetly declining a proffered seat on a crowded train from a man with a glint who thinks you are too delicate a little rosebud to bloom unaided among the thorns.

Women who play tennis have long since smashed through antique prejudice to become superstars in their own right. Those who love the other game can see virtues and style beyond sheer macho power. But women's cricket — in England, at least — is still too easily reduced by the idle, near snigger of condescension. It is more than time to take another look.

The final, in which England beat New Zealand by 67 runs, was only the third occasion that a women's match has been allowed at headquarters. Nobody out there in the middle will ever forget the glory or the emotion, however tinged it might be with disappointment.

Emily Drumm will feel that stung more than most. Two spilled catches at vital moments set an unusually ragged New Zealand fielding tone and a fourth-ball duck completed her personal misery.

Wendy Watson, dropped twice and out for five, was England's only disappointment. It was Union Jacks and Mexican waves nearly all the way. Jan Britton passed a record 1,000 runs in World Cup cricket with a typically stylish 48 and Carole Hodges was able to retire at the top to opt for life down on the farm. Marriage in October awaits but her 45 valuable runs yesterday nurtured the buds of victory for England.

The home side's collective confidence was overwhelming. Barbara Daniels, swift of foot and thought, turned in a model performance. It was Jo Chamberlain, though, a van driver with power driving all of her own, who provided the exhilarating difference. Even the normally reserved elderly gents massed in the members' stand stood to show their approval. It was in absolute contrast to Jo's debut match at Lord's in 1987.

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Robson's class shines in weary showing

By Peter Ball

TO CELEBRATE winning the European Cup 25 years ago, Manchester United invited Benfica, their opponents then, to open their season at Old Trafford on Saturday. Bobby Charlton, Nobby Stiles, Alex Stepney and David Sadler joined their team-mates and their most famous foes on that occasion to watch United unveil their latest signing, Roy Keane.

George Best was missing, however, and so was much of the magic. United's 14-hour journey back from South Africa on Friday took its toll in tired limbs and dull minds, enabling Benfica to win 1-0, in spite of putting on nine substitutes during the second half, including the scorer, Sergei Yuran.

Keane had a quiet time, but there was one United player who took the opportunity to impress the great names of the past and make a statement to his manager. Bryan Robson did both with élan, dominating United's midfield in formidable style to leave Paddy Cregan, the playmaker in 1966, glowing with admiration.

"He was different class out there today," Cregan said. "but he was the same when he came back at the end of last season, too — he was the best player on the field at Wimbledon. Even with Ince and now Keane, how can you possibly leave him out?"

It is a nice question for Alex Ferguson, as the manager admits. "He's unbelievable," Ferguson said. "He's seen the situation and attacked it. The way he played today, he was more or less saying to me 'what are you going to do about this?' I've no idea."

With Ince making a late start to training after going on the England summer tour, and Ferguson convinced that Keane also still needs to catch up physically, the manager has a little time yet before deciding, but someone seems sure to be unhappy. What may concern him is that Robson's dominating personality seemed to inhibit his new signing on Saturday.

Midfield is not the only place where Ferguson will soon face an embarrassment of riches. It seems not so long ago that we were writing about the death of the winger. Old Trafford is now awash with them.

With Sharpe, another late starter after England duties, playing with Ince and Danny Wallace in the reserves, United began with Kanchelskis and Giggs, and then late in the match brought on the latest in the production line, Ben Thornley. One of the outstanding players in last year's youth team, Thornley's confidence and skill suggest it will not be long before he too is pushing for a place.

Ferguson has already suggested that one answer may be to play Giggs through the middle. There is a log jam there, too, and on Saturday there was another body making a claim there, as Old Trafford's forgotten man, Dion Dublin, took his chance to remind everybody of his existence when he replaced Mark Hughes with some effect. It left the manager looking thoughtful, for as Ferguson remarked, "He's English, which will be useful to us in Europe."

Pass master showing Gascoigne the way

Russell Kempson sees two former Tottenham favourites return to White Hart Lane for the Makita tournament

Glenn Hoddle and Paul Gascoigne. Names that evoke rich memories, players that produce beautiful images of football in its purest form. Shimmy, dummy, an opponent lies sprawling; a goalkeeper stares helplessly as the ball defies ballistic logic and twists into the top corner.

At 35, Hoddle is entering the twilight of his playing career. Tottenham Hotspur, AS Monaco, Swindon Town and now Chelsea, where he has also grasped the managerial nettle. Transition from one of the lads to full-time gaffer is well under way, yet he can still tease and torment with the best.

At 26, Gascoigne is on the brink, too. Not of fulfilling the world-class potential he has promised since emerging as a precocious talent on Tyneside; not of proving he has finally recovered from the wild lunge at Gary Charles in the FA Cup final in 1991 and subsequently wrecked right knee.

Gascoigne, as ever, is on the brink of self-destruction, hovering between inspired improvisation and provocative petulance. Always ready to explode, with little ignition needed.

Hoddle and Gascoigne, soul brothers in style yet light years apart. Success and failure waiting to happen.

In north London on Saturday and yesterday, Hoddle and Gascoigne returned to Tottenham. In the Makita International tournament, won by Chelsea with a 4-0 victory over Tottenham in the final, they revisited the stage of former glories, older, arguably wiser and still with plenty to offer.

Gascoigne, predictably, hogged the headlines, particularly in Lazio's 3-2 semi-final defeat by a young and vigorous Tottenham side. Speculation over his alleged summer excesses on the dietary front appeared grossly misplaced. He unveiled a no more than chunky frame and weaved the occasional intricate web in an ordinary Lazio line-up.

It was too much for Austin, the Tottenham full back, as Gascoigne hounded under his challenge to earn a penalty. It was too much for Thorstvedt, the Tottenham goalkeeper, as Gascoigne ended another scything run with a craftsman's finish, a delicately curled right-foot shot.

And then, at the end, snap. All the good work, all the control of an ever fragile temperament, gone in a flash. Stephen Lodge, the referee, receives a fearsome ear-bashing for not playing enough stoppage time, as the players leave the field; Gascoigne has to be tugged away by Signori and Sheeringham.

"I told the ref he had a great match," Gascoigne said, momentarily breaking his childish vow of silence to the press. "There was no problem. We shook hands in the tunnel." Lodge said. Pigs are flying around north London as regularly as wires.

A sulky, tetchy Gascoigne ran out for the third-fourth place play-off with Ajax, which the Dutch club won 2-0 at a canter. Glimpses of skill were overshadowed by boorish back-chat; he was substituted, stayed just long enough to collect his medal and then



Best foot forward: Gascoigne in action for Lazio during the Makita International tournament. Photograph: Ben Radford/Allsport

dashed from the arena. Gone from the spotlight, away from the public hell he and his cohorts have created.

No such tantrums from Hoddle. Never has been, never will. Though not quite possessing the angelic innocence of Linaker, Hoddle conducts himself with class and dignity, on and off the field.

In the 1-1 semi-final draw with Ajax — Chelsea were fortunate enough to win 4-2 on penalties — he strolled in front of the back four, a glittering jewel in his favoured diamond formation. Using the outside of an ankle to chip the ball up over an opponent is a more extravagant part of his repertoire yet is still active. Fifty-yard diagonal passes also find their target with unerring accuracy.

In the rout of Tottenham, now managed by Osvaldo Ardiles, his former White

Hart Lane team-mate of eight seasons, Hoddle again played the puppeteer. Gascoigne's hat-trick did the damage but Hoddle exposed the Tottenham frailties, sitting in space and caressing the ball forward with time and ease. He was man-of-the-tournament, a formality; his winning of only 53 England caps will remain a travesty.

"He looked very good," Ardiles said. "I don't see why he can't go through a league season. He has the intelligence and will use his head rather than rely on his legs. I see no problems." Intelligence is the key word. Hoddle has been blessed with it, has used it and will stroll on for a few years yet, with the use of tactical substitutions sparing his limbs.

Swindon will collect frequent additions to the initial £75,000 they received for his playing registration — Chelsea must also pay £2,000 a game — and the FA Carling Premiership will be a better place.

But what of Gascoigne? Who knows what lurks in that tortured mind. Will he ever learn? Will he also play on after his time before graduating gracefully into management to pass on the considerable tricks of his trade? Pigs are flying over Rome, too.

Ajax: S. Menez, O. Blind, F. De Boer, J. Van Der Brugg, M. Kreek, O. Seedorf, G. Frink, E. Davids, S. Peetersen (capt), R. De Boer, J. Ulfers (sub), O. Peterson, M. Overmars.

Lazio: L. Marchegiani, P. Negro (capt), L. Corini, G. Favali, R. Di Matteo, C. Gargani, G. Crescenzi, O. Marcolin, C. Scifo, G. Sestini, P. Gascoigne (sub), R. Bacci, G. Signori. Tottenham Hotspur: J. Walker, D. Austin, J. Condy (sub), O. Hill, I. Hendon (sub), P. Allen, C. Caldwell, G. Mabbutt, N. Barry, S. Sedgley, O. Anderson, E. Sheeringham, O. Collins. Chelsea: K. Harewood, S. Clarke, A. Dow, G. Hoddle (capt), J. Peacock, E. Johnson, O. Loe, M. Donaghy, J. Spencer, A. Cassanova (sub), N. Shepperson, G. Peacock, D. Miles. Referee: D. Elmer (Manchester).



One on one: Hoddle, right, tracks Anderson at White Hart Lane yesterday. Photograph: Mike Powell

Sinton deal likely to spark wave of player transfers

By Peter Ball

INJURIES in pre-season are always dreaded by players and managers, but the news that Bobby Sinton had left Queens Park Rangers' match with Bournemouth on Saturday with a leg injury troubled more than one manager yesterday.

Sinton will be examined this morning, but the indications yesterday were that the injury was less severe than at first thought. Although Wednesday is still short of Rangers' asking price, it is thought that a deal at around £2.7 million is under consideration.

That would enable Wednesday to release their forward, Paul Warhurst, who would then be free to join Blackburn. The fee was agreed two weeks ago but Wednesday had refused to release the player until they had made a signing themselves.

In their turn, Rangers are expected to spend some of the money on the Blackpool forward, Trevor Sinclair. Wednesday, however, will still face opposition from Arsenal for Sinton. The London club, which ended its three-match South African tour with a 1-0 win over Kaiser Chiefs — Kevin Campbell scoring — is understood to have offered £2.5 million for the England midfielder.

Another transfer that may go through this week concerns Guy Whittingham, set to join Aston Villa from Portsmouth. A fee of around £1.25 million is thought to have been agreed for Whittingham, who scored 47 goals last season. But Ron Atkinson, the Aston Villa manager, said yesterday that Whittingham was only one of two or three options he was considering. Another is thought to be Mark Bright, of Sheffield Wednesday, who would be the final link in the transfer chain.

The Australian cricket team may be sweeping all before them, bar Lancashire, but Australian goalkeepers are having a much less happy time. Mark Bosnich has already been suspended from Aston Villa's opening match of the season for refusing to play for his country. The Australian FA is expected to ask the Football Association to extend the ban indefinitely after Bosnich announced his retirement from international football in response to the original ban.

Bosnich's successor, Roh Zabica, was sent off during his team's World Cup qualifying match defeat by Canada for a professional foul. Canada won 2-1, and the second leg to determine who plays against the runners-up in the South American group takes place on August 14 in Sydney.

To add to Bosnich's problems, an FA commission meets Aston Villa tomorrow to investigate his transfer. The club reportedly paid a fee to Bosnich's agent, against Fifa regulations.

Cwmbran, the first winners of the new Welsh National League to qualify for the European Cup, are expecting a capacity 5,000 crowd when they meet Cork City, the League of Ireland champions, in the first leg of their European Cup preliminary round match.

England juniors off to unhappy start

ENGLAND'S hopes of holding on to the world junior women's team squash championship in Kuala Lumpur have been jeopardised from the start. They lost 2-1 yesterday in a qualifying pool A match against a New Zealand side eager to compensate for narrowly missing last week's individual title (Colin McQuillan writes).

After total HISTORICAL superiority over New Zealand in team events, England's women have now lost at both senior and junior levels in the last 12 months and in each case lost their grip on long held world titles.

Australia RAMPAGING are dominating THROU Pool B with a tough squad that includes Rachael Grinham, the new world junior champion, and it is almost certain that they will be England's opponents in the semi-finals at the end of the week.

Yesterday Australia easily dismissed both Switzerland and Ireland, the latter also losing to a new squad from Egypt on the first day.

"We will have to play up to our strength even to reach the

semi-finals," said Alex Cowie, the England manager. "We took full points from Malaysia later yesterday, but Scotland are playing well enough to beat South Africa and either of them might cause us problems in the top order."

England's morale here was scarcely improved by losing the individual title last Friday and hearing yesterday morning that Jonah Barrington, the former world NUMBER ONE No 1 and six-time British Open champion, will not be continuing as England's Director of Squash Excellence.

Barrington AND has been the inspirational spearhead of the English squash programme for five years, but he is a victim of cut-backs by the Squash Rackets Association.

The SRA wants to keep Barrington, 52, HIM as a consultant, but indications are that he will move abroad. "I am a track suit man," said Barrington, whose last job for England could be November's men's world championships in Karachi, Pakistan. "I have a talent for coaching and I like to be at the sharp end."

South Africa defeat world champions

SOUTH AFRICA enjoyed their finest result since returning to international rugby union last year when they beat Australia, the world champions, 19-12 in Sydney on Saturday in the first game of the three-match series.

Australia led 9-0 after 18 minutes but South Africa surged back with two tries in the last seven minutes of the first half to take a grip on the match. They added a third try in the second half. The boot of Marty Roeback accounted for all Australia's points.

Francois Pienaar, the South Africa captain, was an inspirational figure, despite a nasty head wound that required several stitches. The 26-year-old Transvaal flanker, who marshalled his forwards superbly to provide the platform for victory, sank to his knees in celebration when the final whistle went.

James Small, the wing, scored two of South Africa's tries. In the last minute of the first half he broke three feeble Australian tackles to score and, six minutes before the end, he outpaced Damien Smith to touch down a kick from the centre, Heinrich Fuls.

South Africa had David Campese to thank for their first try, in the 33rd minute, which brought them back into the game. The wing fumbled a kick near his own line to provide Pieter Muller with a simple score.

Muller's try put South Africa on the scoreboard after Roeback kicked three early penalties. Although he added a fourth in the 55th minute to bring his side within two points of South Africa, Australia never looked capable of overhauling the determined touring side.

The result was another setback for the world champions, whose error-strewn performance followed their defeat against the All Blacks two weeks ago. For South Africa it was sweet revenge for the 26-3 mauling they suffered against the Wallabies in Cape Town last year.

"The match was won by the side that wanted to win the most. It was an emotional win," Pienaar said. "Our forwards did a tremendous job in holding the ball against a bigger, heavier Australian pack. Although we beat the world champions there is still a long way for us to go."

Ian McIntosh, the South Africa coach, said the victory was a huge relief. "We needed to prove to ourselves that we can do it and to believe in ourselves and our style of play," he said. In eight matches since South Africa's return to the international fold, it was only their second win.

The Australia coach, Bob Dwyer, said his side was unable to score any tries because South Africa repeatedly gave away deliberate penalties rather than risk a five-point score. But he praised the South Africans for their pace and ability to keep the ball

alive. "They were capable of putting pressure on our defence to such an extent it was bound to crack. That was evident with their third try," Dwyer said.

The second international is in Brisbane on August 14 and the third a week later in Sydney.

SCORES: Australia: Penalties: M. Roeback (4), South Africa: Tries: J. Small (2), P. Muller. Conversions: T. van Rensburg (2). AUSTRALIA: M. Roeback, O. Brown, J. Little, T. Horne, O. Campese, S. Brown, N. Fien, J. Jones. A. Day, P. Keane (captain), E. McGowan, W. Leigh, R. Mead, G. Morgan, T. Gaver, O. Wilson.

SOUTH AFRICA: T. van Rensburg, J. Olivier, P. Muller, H. Fuls, J. Small, J. Strydom, R. du Preez, W. Higgs (capt), K. Anderson, U. Schmidt, J. J. Adams, G. Short, P. Pienaar, N. Wiegman, H. Snyman, O. Loefer, T. Strydom.

Grant Fox scored seven penalties, a record in international rugby, as New Zealand overwhelmed Western Samoa 35-13 in the first match between the countries in Auckland on Saturday. The stand-off half's precision kicking and an aggressive All Black pack kept the free-running Samoans at bay. Fox also converted the two New Zealand tries, scored by Lee Stensness and Zinzan Brooke. Western Samoa replied with a try from Anelele Aiulopo and a conversion and two penalties from Darren Kellett.



Pienaar: stitches

Triple first sets up Ireland triumph

IRELAND defeated England by one point in the men's section of the Home Countries rowing match at Strathclyde on Saturday (Mike Rosewell writes). The England team included four national champion crews but only the Nottingham county eight and the sculler, Leon Fletcher, managed first places.

The Irish crews, absent from the national championships two weeks earlier, achieved three first places, the most impressive being those in the coxed fours and the lightweight sculls. The Irish four, the Belfast combination which pushed Harvard to a record in the Britannia Cup at Henley, were too good for the Bedford crew that represented England, and John Armstrong won the lightweight sculls for the third consecutive year, relegating Marysh Chmiele, of England, the national champion, to third place.

Wales, without a first place since 1981, managed two wins on Saturday, in the lightweight fours, which they won narrowly from Scotland, and the coxed pairs, Steve Ellis, a

student in London, was involved in both crews.

In the women's section, England, with the whole of their team composed of national champions, took the honours. Scotland won the coxed pairs, bearing the national champions, O'Malley and Hopkins, in the process. Guin Batten, younger sister of the Olympic finalist, Miriam Batten, was an impressive winner for England in the sculls.

Alastair Warnock, a silver medal-winner in the Coupe de la Jeunesse in Vichy a fortnight earlier, won the junior men's sculls for Scotland, well ahead of Tom Gale, of England, who received a new sculling boat by becoming national champion while Warnock was in France. Ireland, with all their crews finishing first or second, retained the junior men's trophy.

The junior women's match was a three-country dead heat, Scotland taking the trophy as winners of the biggest boat event.

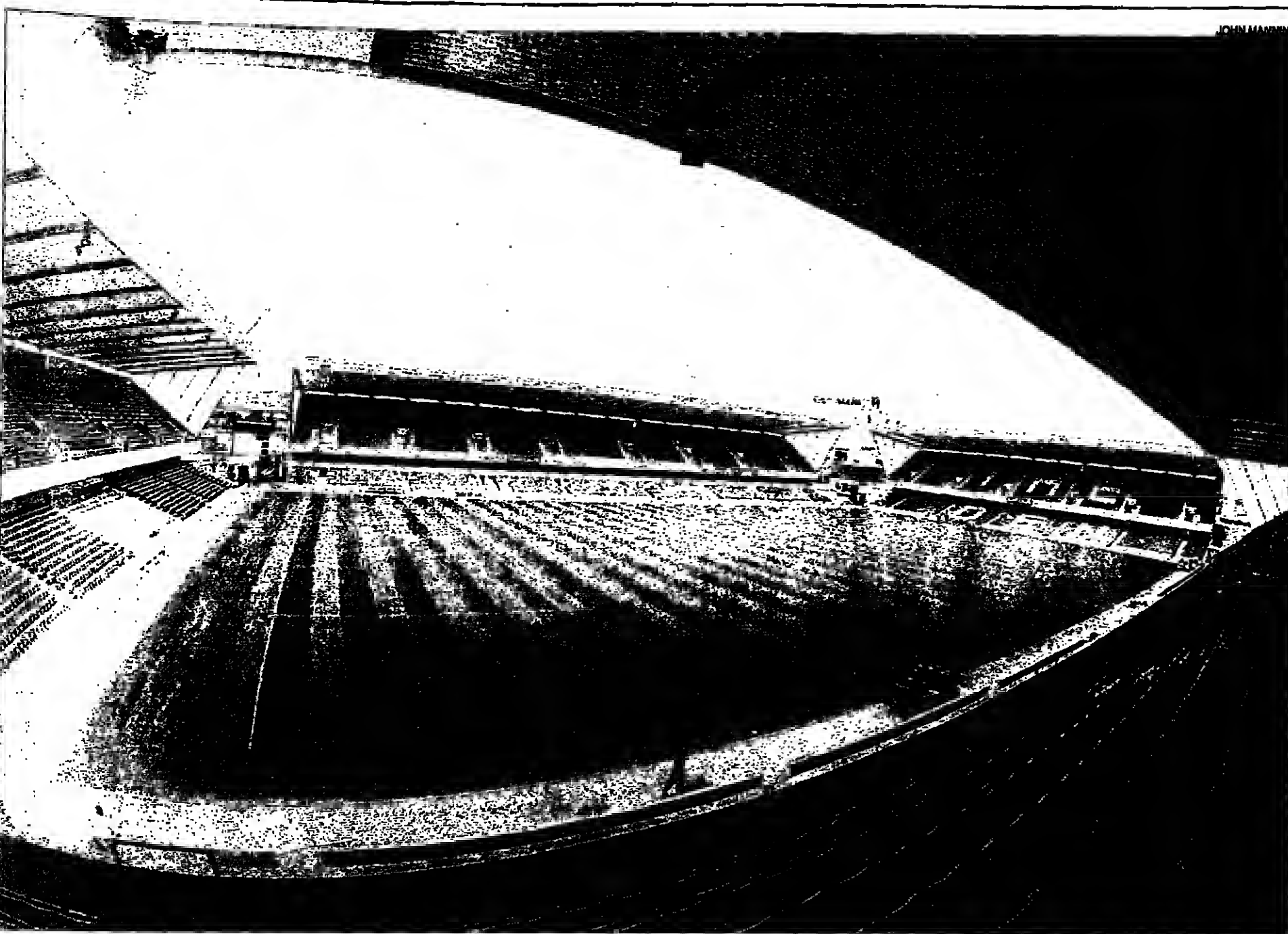
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سورة من القرآن

inton deal likely to spark wave of player transfers

By PETER...

URIES in the transfer market are likely to be sparked by the move of Bobby Stanger from Tottenham to Arsenal. The move, which is expected to be completed within the next few weeks, is seen as a significant statement by Tottenham manager Peter Taylor. Stanger, a versatile forward, has been a key player for Tottenham in recent years. His move to Arsenal, which has paid a fee of around £1 million, is expected to trigger a series of other transfers. Tottenham are looking to strengthen their squad, while Arsenal are looking to add depth to their attack. The transfer market is expected to be very active in the coming weeks.



Home from home: The new all-seater Millwall stadium that has been built at a cost of £16 million. The first game at the ground will be against Sporting Lisbon on Wednesday

Wind of change blows through Millwall

IN THE space of a summer, Millwall Football Club have moved 400 yards and 83 years. Identifying their old stadium with the condemned, Millwall sold the Den at Cold Blow Lane to developers and together with Lewisham Borough Council this week opens a £16 million new stadium that exceeds anything decreed by Lord Justice Taylor.

"The bulk of our grounds reflect the days when people worked in sweatshops and lived in houses that had outside loos," Reg Burr, the Millwall chairman, said. "We're changing that."

The demolition at Cold Blow Lane is swiftly erasing the memory of that Den of hooligan iniquity. The builders, carpenters, plumbers and electricians have worked like ants to get the new place ready for the opening game on Wednesday against Sporting Lisbon, to be followed by dinner for 350 in the stadium's integral banqueting hall.

Millwall have gambled. The elite clubs, rebuilding as Taylor's 1994 deadline nears, are in a more familiar routine. There is a symmetry between the £13.1 million grants from the Football Trust that helps to scratch out a stand here, put in seats there, and an almost identical sum spent on buying new players. The Premier League balances the cost of new flesh and blood and bricks and mortar, but their stadiums remain trapped in



Rob Hughes takes a look at the change of philosophy that has led a pride of Lions into a new Den

surroundings where it is difficult to drive a car never mind park it on match day.

By moving lock, stock and barrel, Millwall have built not merely a football arena to lie fallow 13 days a fortnight but, they hope, a catalyst to catch the flow of community and commercial use in a 21st century setting. They are taking bookings for music concerts, boxing, rugby league. It leaves open questions: Will Millwall's people take to moving up-market? Will their notorious minority spoil this attempt at civilisation? Above all, will Millwall be able to move the soul of any club, its fans with the stadium?

The stadium

Modernity sits strangely in southeast London. Nouvelle stadium architecture looks as if it might not be quite the thing.

Inside, the words, The Den emblazoned in yellow against the blue seating, are intended to read like a homecoming. The stadium resembles Ibrox, rated the most modern in Britain, and has the same designers. The open corners allow ventilation, and on a breezy day it has the potential to

whistle up a howler reminiscent of the intimidatory Cold Blow Lane.

Below stairs Millwall comes into its own. There is space to breathe. Spaciousness is everywhere, especially in the corridors inside all four stands. Each concourse is six metres wide to encourage the sale of food and drink, while spectators who come early and stay late are entertained by 56 TV monitors. A big brother element, forced on society by the hooligan, means that 24 of these TV outlets contain the hidden eye of closed circuit surveillance.

Colin Sayer, the stadium manager and safety officer, is himself surprised that it has taken just 37 weeks to turn a sports playing field and recreation park into this new stadium. He says the philosophy will be low-profile policing (just 30 officers a match), high profile stewarding. Some 350 stewards are being trained by fire, ambulance and police officers at the stadium.

The spectators, paying between £10 and £20 for their uninterrupted view, are encouraged to linger inside the plush facilities. There are seven kitchens serving the restaurants and executive

lounges, there are 32 private boxes, 15 of which have been let out on three-year leases. Outside there is on-site parking for 240 cars, with a further 4,500 off-site, and a community hall, creche, all-weather pitches and badminton courts run by the council.

Millwall has come a long way out of their jam factory origins on the Isle of Dogs 108 years ago. The players will still be engaged on anti-drugs campaigns and sports scholarships with the community, but their dressing rooms are the ultimate in luxury. The home dressing room complex has separate relaxation rooms, players warm-up and weights rooms, treatment room and lounge, and even a jacuzzi.

And who pays the £16 million bill? £5.2 million comes from the sale of the old site, £2.75 million from the Football Trust, and Lewisham Council gave Millwall the new site on a 150-year lease plus £2.7 million towards the building. The rest should be self-financing from rents and the sale of food and beverage.

The vision

Reg Burr, 70, a City financier, took over Millwall when the club faced liquidation in 1986. He says there were not even 11 players who wanted to play for the club, there were less than 4,000 supporters, and Millwall was a convenient peg on which to hang every one of

football's evils. Raised in north London as a Tottenham Hotspur fan, pushed through public school by middle-class parents, he is a member of that much-maligned group, the FA council.

"It's a big culture shock for us," he said of the new Millwall. "The fans still sing 'Nobody likes us, we don't care', even though they know it's not true any more. We are an enclave, more like a northern than a southern club, and the thing that attracted me to Millwall was its Dunkirk spirit."

But how to sustain that, how to change a club once held together by its intimidatory surroundings? "We tried hard to replicate the old Den," Burr said. "But however hard we try, we won't recreate what was there. The moment you sit people down, you are going to

lose some of the emotions."

Burr, though a gentle financier in the City, is proud of his ability to mix the vernacular with the coarsest of South London tongues. He expects no gratitude, and gets none. "One unknown attribute of the Millwall supporter is that he is a voracious letter-writer, and not too choosy how he addresses you," he said.

They accuse him of selling off the team's best players, the Sheringhams, the Armstrongs, the Coopers. "I answer that a club of our size, without the infrastructure to stay among the elite, could go only two ways: into the arms of a property developer, or into bed with the local authority," he said. "I chose the latter, Lewisham Council, and we have a partnership of equals, and I still maintain that we will fill this ground with our team which is capable of making a real promotion challenge this season."

But when I'm accused of selling off the crown jewels, I can swear as abusively as any of them. There is only one crown jewel, and that's the one you're looking at. This stadium will be used in our lifetime, our children's lifetime and their children's lifetime. And when I speak to the shareholders [Millwall], a public company, has 6,400, I say the same thing: once we've got this stadium running, the club will never be under pressure again."



Burr: culture shock

Success graces new faces

AT A time when the national selectors are drawing up a shortlist for the Commonwealth Games team next year, the leading England players, hoping to thrive in the Liverpool Victoria English Women's Bowling Association national championships, were upstaged by newcomers at Royal Leamington Spa (David Rhys Jones writes).

Not one of the winners during the first week has played for England. Of the established players, Lynda Jarman, of Cambridge Chesterton, was the most impressive, as she made a spirited recovery in the champion of champions singles final yesterday.

Jarman looked the likely winner as she closed from 18-7 to 20-15, and was holding three excellent shots when Caer Glouin from Gloucester, played a precision match-winning shot. Jarman has yet to earn her Gloucestershire county badge.

Val Chatfield, of Woolwich and Plumstead, who won the two-wood singles title on Saturday, was good value for her 14-10 semi-final victory over the rising star of Norfolk, Lynne Whitehead, and her 17-8 victory in the final over Kathie Scott, of Crawley.

Shacklock and Vakil enjoy a perfectly-synchronised start

TEMPERS flared, ultimatums were issued and Britain won its first medal of the European championships at Sheffield yesterday, a bronze in the synchronised swimming duet.

It is hoped that the efforts of Kerry Shacklock and Lalla Vakil might generate a little more interest in the championships than has been shown so far, something that has prompted a call for support from Nick Gillingham and a call to organisers to cut the admission price by half to £4 per session, except for swimming finals (£10), to improve a 40 per cent sales rate. Children and pensioners get in at half-price.

Shacklock, 21, from Wokingham, in Berkshire, and Vakil, 19, from Farnham, in Surrey, sporting spider-web costumes of bright green, were grace personified, gliding along as they did to The Oracle of Apollo, and The Wall. But they could not match the synchronicity of the Russian duet of Olga Sedakova and Anna Kozlova, who retained their title. France's Marianne Aeschbacher and Celine Leveque, on 177.268 points, separated Russia, 183.936, and Britain, 176.298 in an event Britain won four times from 1974 to 1983.

Shacklock, who is poised to collect another medal in the solo today, had no complaints about any lack of publicity her

sport receives. "I think it's getting better," she said through a smile all the more genuine for not having to compete with her nose-pick.

Elsewhere, things were less serene. The first sign of trouble was at a side-show in Leeds, where Roberto Fiori, the women's water-polo coach, was removed by security after falling for a second time to comply with a referee's instruction not to coach from the poolside during play.

Events were more heated when the crew of ZDF, a German television station, disrupted a live BBC broadcast of an interview with the women's 1m springboard gold medal winner, Simona Koch, of Germany. The Germans believed they had first access to their compatriot over the host broadcaster. Never-

theless they have been given their third and final warning, and a repeat performance will result in loss of accreditation.

Meanwhile, things were calmer in the British camp, with the 26-year-old Gillingham confident that the injury that plagued him at the Barcelona Olympic Games last year would not return to haunt him. If that is so, Britain might expect medals from the man who is fastest in the world at 100 and 200 metres breaststroke this year. While happy with his form, he would make no predictions, conscious of being the only medal success at Barcelona in a team that generally disappointed.

While urging the public to support the British team, he confessed he felt more at ease without the publicity that surrounded him in the run-up to Barcelona.

At the British team press conference, he was joined by Sarah Hardcastle and sprinters Mark Foster and Mike Fiddens. All professed happiness with the home pool advantage that meant they had not had to travel or attend training camps.

Though critical of the short break between heats and finals, and disappointed in publicity for the first European championships in Britain since 1938, they said nothing could distract them from their job.



Gillingham: call for support

Powerful Cason secures victory

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

ANDRE Cason, who won the US trials for the world championships in Stuttgart, produced another impressive victory over 100 metres at the grand prix meeting in Cologne yesterday but was denied the chance of running against Linford Christie, the Olympic champion.

Despite a poor start, Cason showed his strength in the last 40 metres to beat his compatriot Jon Drummond, on the line in a time of 10.11sec. Drummond clocked 10.13sec.

The diminutive Cason failed to produce the kind of start that left Carl Lewis, the world champion, trailing at the US championships in June and was a metre down on Drummond at the halfway stage. But he came through with a late surge that will have given him confidence less than two weeks before the world championships start.

Christie, who complained of feeling sore after beating Lewis in their much-publicised "dash for cash" in Gateshead on Friday, chose to avoid Cason over 100 metres. Christie will face Lewis again at the Weltklasse grand prix meeting in Zurich on Wednesday, the organiser, Res Bruegger, said. "I had been in contact with the respective managers of Carl Lewis and Linford Christie long before they raced against each other in Gateshead on Friday," he added.

The Briton had announced

on Saturday that he would not run in Cologne, but he decided to go in the 200 metres, which he won in 20.39sec from a field that did not include one Barcelona Olympic finalist.

Kevia Young, the Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion, gained an important psychological victory over his Zambian rival, Samuel Matete, who ended his unbeaten run of 26 races at Crystal Palace 10 days ago.

The American world record-holder took revenge with a fine performance of 47.75sec. Matete was second in 48.28sec. "The loss in London brought me down to earth a bit. I'm not a machine," Young said. "I clipped a few hurdles in London but this was one of my better races of the year."

Samuel Kinor, the Olympic bronze medal-winner, showed his sharpness over 400 metres with a victory over Butch Reynolds, the American world record-holder, in 44.54sec.

The Kenyan looked much more comfortable in the final straight as Reynolds tired and slipped back to third place after Sunday Bada, the Nigerian, burst through in the final 10 metres. Bada clocked 44.7sec with Reynolds finishing in 44.83sec. Tony Washington, the American, beat Lars Riedel, of Germany, the world champion, in the discus.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Relay teams prevail in junior finals

BRITAIN'S sprint relay teams both won gold medals at the European junior athletics championships in San Sebastian yesterday, continuing a weekend of success. The victories followed gold medals on Saturday for Guy Bullock in the 400 metres, Carl Howard in the long jump and Katharine Merry in the 200 metres.

Merry, second in the 100 metres, won her third medal of the weekend when she teamed with Diane Allahgreen, Sophia Smith and Debbie Mant to take Britain home ahead of France in 44.32sec. It was the first time a British women's team had won the title.

The men's team of Allyn Condon, Danny Joyce, Paul Bolton and Ejika Wodu upheld Britain's tradition in the 4 x 100 metres when they also beat the French, coming home 0.02sec ahead in 40.01sec. It is the third time in five championships a British team has won the event. Howard's win in the long jump, 7.76m, was an unexpected bonus.

Robertson claims title

GOLF: Dean Robertson, the Scottish Open strokeplay champion last year, won the J and B Scottish amateur championship at Royal Dornoch yesterday. He claimed victory in the 36-hole final against his Walker Cup colleague, Raymond Russell, by two holes. Russell was only briefly ahead in the match, when he birdied the opening hole. He was pulled back to all square three holes later and Robertson moved ahead at the 5th. The Cochrane Castle golfer had opened up a three-hole lead by the 8th but Russell fought back to square the match once again at the 20th. Robertson moved into a four-hole lead with five holes to play and then held off a courageous comeback by Russell, who had birdies at the 32nd and 33rd. With one hole separating them, Russell conceded when he left his long putt 10ft short and failed to hole out at the last.

Japan in good shape

LACROSSE: The women's world championships start at Edinburgh on Saturday with Japan playing Scotland, and England meeting Australia. Yesterday, Japan beat England Reserves 10-8 in a warm-up game at Twickenham, having beaten Putney, 21-3, and West London, 15-3, the day before. Japan had to work hard for victory over the England Reserves, for whom Sian Masterton scored four times. Nevertheless, it was an encouraging result for a country who, until 10 years ago, had a total of only 22 players. Today there are close on 6,000. Japan will be hoping for at least fifth place in the eight-team tournament.

India end long run

CRICKET: India ended their barren run of 26 overseas Tests without victory when they beat Sri Lanka by 235 runs in the second Test in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka, set a target of 472 runs, were all out for 236, giving India their first win in Sri Lanka, and their first overseas win since beating England at Lord's in 1986. Aravinda de Silva was defiant in attempting to stave off defeat, but succumbed to the leg spinner, Anil Kumble, seven short of what would have been his maiden Test century at home. Victory, and a 1-0 lead in the three-Test series, followed Kumble's removal of the tailender, Pramodya Wickremasinghe, for four.

England finish in style

NETBALL: England finished the World Games in the Hague, Holland, on a high note when they beat the Canadians, 68-29, to finish fourth yesterday. The Games were won by Australia, the world champions, who beat New Zealand, the No 2 seeds, 62-36. Liz Broadhead, the England coach, said: "I am delighted with the form of the team. Obviously, I am disappointed not to have repeated the result we achieved earlier this year against Jamaica, when we won three matches to nil. However, the team is looking on good form for the 1995 world championships to be held in Birmingham."

Gallant losers

RUGBY LEAGUE: Great Britain's young amateur side put up a brave display before going down 15-8 in the second international against Australia in Tweedhead on the Australian Gold Coast. A try after two minutes gave Australia a fine start, but Great Britain fought back to take a four-point lead with a try by Seeds and a conversion and penalty from Roper. However, the home team led 12-8 at the break, and in the second half they exerted heavy pressure, but the only score of the half was a penalty for Australia in the dying seconds.

Dredge holds off Ellis

GOLF: Bradley Dredge, the Walker Cup newcomer who won the Welsh amateur championship for the first time at Southerndown on Saturday, may not turn professional this autumn because of the cost of tour qualification. After taking the title with a 3 and 1 victory over Matthew Ellis after being five holes up at one stage, he said: "I have not yet decided. It costs so much these days just to get one's card." His win over Ellis followed a bad patch after the short 23rd hole, when Ellis won three in a row. But a birdie at the 35th settled the contest.

Skah breaks record

ATHLETICS: Khalid Skah, of Morocco, broke the world record for two miles with a time of 8min 12.17sec at a meeting in Hechtel, Belgium, on Saturday. The Olympic 10,000 metres champion made a brilliant solo run in the last kilometre to better the six-year-old mark of 8min 13.45sec set by his compatriot, Said Aouita. "I knew at the start I could beat this record," Skah, 26, said. "I'll try and beat the world records in 5,000 and 10,000 metres, and why not the 3,000. But now I want to save some energy for the world championships in Stuttgart."

Britain start strongly

RIFLE SHOOTING: The Great Britain team's Canadian tour started well at the Saskatchewan Championships in Saskatoon on Saturday, sharing top place in the first stage of the Lieutenant Governor's Prize, and holding the top two places in the grand aggregate. Paul Gray took the Canadian, Norman Sutcliffe, to a sudden death finish, before losing to the Canadian's bullseye. Andrew Tucker won the City of Moose Jaw Cup at 300 yards with a bull to an inner from Arne Sorenson, of Canada. Both had hit the bull 25 times before the sudden death finish.

Wilson on target

MOTOR RALLYING: Malcolm Wilson took one step closer to winning his first leading rally championship when he won the Ulster rally, the fourth round of the Mobil British series, on Saturday. After 17 years in international motor sport, including a spell in the world championship, the 37-year-old Ford Escort Cosworth driver has set himself the goal of winning both the British and world titles before his planned retirement at 40. He holds a six-point lead over Richard Burns, the young Subaru driver, going into the final round in the Isle of Man in September.

Worst result in 36-year history of Channel Race bad omen for Admiral's Cup

Britain left seeking change of fortune

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THE British go into the Admiral's Cup race today with their backs against the wall after a disastrous result in the 206-mile Channel Race on Saturday. Graham Walker's Indulgence finished last among the 50th yachts. Provezza Source, skippered by Stuart Childerley, fared no better among the two tonners and only the fourth place of Glyn Charles and his GBE crew in the one tonners prevented the host team from being the last of the eight nations competing.

It was the worst result recorded by the British team in the 36-year history of the event, but while other teams spent yesterday practising for the 28-mile race in Hayling Bay today, Walker's squad was conspicuous by its absence at Cowes.

The only activity was around GBE International, which was pulled out of the water to finish repairs to her keel after running into Gurnard Ledge on Thursday.

The only good news is that the British trio remain within striking distance of the Irish and French teams, tied 8.5 points ahead in fifth place overall, and need a further two points to overhaul the Japanese.

That, however, presupposes that the British will sail with a lot more conviction than they did at the weekend.

Italy, the series leaders, are 29 points ahead of Britain. Their leading entries, Larouge and Brava Q8, are proving the boats to beat. Larouge, the two ton world champion, led the Channel Race home on handicap and Paul Cayard's Brava finished as the top one tonner.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club (RORC), the organisers of this Champagne Mumm sponsored series, have been criticised for the professional courses the fleet have been forced to sail so far. Paul Cayard called the opening heat in the Solent on Thursday, which led the fleet over the rocky hazard at Gurnard Ledge as "crazy", but it was the lack of windward work both then and during the Channel Race that disappointed them.

John Dare, the commodore of the RORC, said that there had been problems, first with the inflatable marker buoys that can only be anchored safely in shallow water, and with unforeseen changes in the wind direction. "We are going to have to look for a better system of anchoring the buoys next time," he said.

France decided not to endorse a plea from the Irish team to replace their one tonner, Jameson I, which sank on Thursday. Luc Gellusseau, the France team captain, said: "We are asked to authorise the replacement of a boat which was not hindered. It is contrary to seamanship and sporting spirit to favour faults. The Irish have used their wild card and can still race and possibly win the Admiral's Cup."

Harold Cudmore, skipper of the Irish yacht, said: "We have no criticism of the French but we are disappointed. They were the only team not to agree to our request to substitute another boat." One man who is enjoying himself at Cowes is Dennis Conner, the victor yesterday in the Etchells 22 class. The American announced that he will take part in the Whitbread Round the World Race after all, aboard his 60-footer, Winston, on the first leg from Southampton to Punta del Este and the third stage, from Fremantle to Auckland.

"I wanted to make sure I would first of all enjoy racing on a boat for a month at a time and that I would be a benefit to the crew," he said. His criticism of the new 60ft class is that the designers should have been forced to sail on them. "Steering is definitely the best job," he said. "The boat has a bow wave like a Bertram 45 [powerboat] and the spray goes right over the crew. The headroom is so low, you have to crawl around and when the engine is on, the dew point drops and condensation forms on the deckhead."



Plain sailing: The French yacht, Corum Diamant, on the way to third place in the one-ton Channel Race

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ADMIRAL'S CUP RESULTS

CHANNEL RACE 50-footers: 1, Contender (GB), 25.5pts; 2, Promotion (Holl), 19.5; 3, Corum Sapphire (Fr), 18.0; 4, Mandrake (It), 16.5; 5, Ragamuffin (Aus), 12.0; 6, Champosa (Japan), 8.0; 7, Jameson 3 (Ire), 13.5; 8, Indulgence (GB), 7.5.

Two-ton: 1, Larouge (It), 34.88; 2, Great News (Aus), 33.00; 3, Rubin (Ger), 31.50; 4, Corum Rubis (Fr), 30.00; 5, Jameson 2 (Ire), 28.50; 6, Swing (Japan), 27.00; 7, Provezza Source (GB), 24.00.

One-ton: 1, Brava Q8 (It), 22.5; 2, Peta (GB), 21.00; 3, Conner (US), 15.00; 4, GBE International (GB), 10.5; 5, Ninja (Aus), 6.00; 6, Nippon (Japan), 4.50; 7, Ace (Holl), 3.00.

Overall standings (after two races): 1, Italy, 83.88; 2, Australia, 88.25; 3, Germany, 80.00; 4, France, 73.00; 5, Ireland, 73.00; 6, Japan, 66.00; 7, Great Britain, 54.50; 8, Holland, 41.50.

Duke has trouble mastering art of finishing

By ALIX RAMSAY

THE Duke of Edinburgh has made an inauspicious start to Cowes week, registering a disqualification and a retirement after two days of competition.

Racing Sir Owen Aisher's Sigma 38, Yeoman XXVIII, he was lying in 22nd place approaching the finish in the Muir Cup yesterday, with ex-King Constantine of Greece at the helm. Yeoman completed the 21-mile course only to hit the marker buoy on the finish-line and be disqualified.

Yeoman had also come unstuck at the finish on Saturday. The duke and his crew were in eighth place but collided with Alan Bentley and Graham Thompson's Class 4 yacht, Magazine II, causing slight damage. Yeoman tactfully retired.

The Muir Cup was won by Summer Pudding, owned by David Knight, who took the trophy ahead of Solent Plexus, owned by Bernard van Bilderbeek.

In the Etchells, Prince Edward completed the course but could finish only 26th in The Ashes, owned by Patrick Chisholm and Nick Bonham. It was a triumph compared with last year when The Ashes was stranded on Gurnard Ledge after misreading the tide.

The main race was the Glazebrooke Trophy for Class 1 yachts. Racing in excellent conditions, Anahita, a 30-year-old Laurin design lovingly restored by her owner, Hans Otto Drakenburg, finished almost three minutes ahead of her nearest rival, Bounder of the Century, owned by Chris Little.

The majority of the fleet in the Class 4 race was disqualified at the start for going the wrong side of the course-line after a general recall, leaving 26 yachts out of contention and a mere 14 left in the race. Software Mistress won by nearly a minute from Jaffa, owned by Mike Walters.

Concerned Conner encounters unusual problems

DENNIS Conner, who is more used to racing the Ferraris of the yachting world in the America's Cup, has come down a peg or two during Cowes week and is enjoying a spot of recreational sailing in the Etchells class. But the switch is causing him some consternation (Alix Ramsay writes).

On Saturday he began by initiating a row between the start, seeking advice on what happens on the start line. Race officials said one thing, fellow competitors another and only when someone found the race instructions was Conner set straight. He went on to lead the fleet at the start until he went round the wrong mark, had to backtrack and found himself in last place. Things got worse when his yacht, Jessica, lost her backstay and Conner had to make some drastic running repairs or risk losing the mast. However, Jessica finished ninth and then won yesterday.

At least Conner had a boat to sail. Wandering around Cowes is a group of Australians who are all dressed up with nowhere to go. They are led by one enthusiastic soul who flew in all the way from Sydney, just to take part in the Fastnet which begins on Saturday. He arrived in Cowes with a nine-strong crew ready to race, only to find the boat he had chartered, at a not inconsiderable cost, was ready for him but had no sails and no rating, leaving the Australians high and dry for Saturday.

There is not much the Cowes Combined Clubs can do during Cowes week, but even they will have trouble sorting out yesterday's results in the Sonata class. Posting the race course H-1-4, the race started on time but unfortunately only half the competitors read the course as H-1-4, the rest taking the instruction as H-1-4, a considerably longer course. The race officials are still searching for someone with a diplomatic touch to sort out the mayhem.

Court of Appeal

Making interim care orders

In re G (Minors) (interim care order)
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Slynn and Lord Justice Waite
[Judgment July 21]

The making of an interim care order under the procedure established by section 38 of the Children Act 1989 did not give a local authority in whose favour it was granted a tactical advantage over other parties to the proceedings but was an impartial step which effectively maintained the status quo pending the final hearing.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing in part an appeal by the local authority from Judge Hamilton's order, sitting at Luton County Court, had (i) refused the authority's application for an interim care order in respect of two children aged 10 and 7, who had been accommodated with their mother, pending the final hearing of applications relating to the children's residence; (ii) made a step which ordered that the authority should not move the children from the foster parents pending the final hearing; (iii) accepted an undertaking from the mother not to withdraw her consent to the children's continuing accommodation and not to join the foster parents leave to be joined in the proceedings.

Mr Ian Poddie, QC and Mrs Caroline Streets for the local

authority; Mr Allan Levy, QC and Miss Hayley O'Brien for the guardian ad litem; Miss Caroline Budden for the father and paternal grandmother; Mr Glen Brasse and Miss Samantha King for the mother; Miss Eleanor Platt, QC and Miss Susanna Walker for the foster parents; the maternal grandmother in person.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE referred to the need for the assessment of the children and to the question currently being explored by the local authority as to who should provide a home for the children. Possibilities canvassed had included the paternal grandmother, the current foster parents or new long term foster parents, in respect of which the mother and the maternal grandmother had expressed strong opinions.

His Lordship said that the judge had intended to preserve the status quo pending the final hearing but he had fallen into error in regarding an interim care order as being a step which involved any advance judgment on the part of the court. Given the acceptance of all parties that the threshold requirements of section 31 of the Act were satisfied, the making of an interim care order, far from inhibiting the status quo was neutral and arguably the most effective way of preserving it.

The regime of interim care orders laid down by section 38, with its limitation to maximum periods of eight weeks in the first

instance and four weeks thereafter, was designed to leave the court with the ability to maintain strict control of any steps taken or proposed by a local authority in the exercise of powers that were by their nature temporary and subject to continuous review.

The making of such an order was an essentially impartial step, favouring neither one side nor the other, and affording to no one, least of all the local authority in whose favour it was made, an opportunity for tactical or advantageous advantage. The judge's failure to appreciate that quality was an error of principle entitling the appellate court to interfere.

His Lordship would accordingly allow the appeal to the extent of making the interim care order reduced by the judge. That conclusion led automatically to the discharge of the prohibited steps order.

His Lordship would not interfere with the judge's order joining the foster parents as parties, but in ordinary circumstances he would not expect the court to regard such joinder as appropriate in proceedings of the present kind. To do so would in most cases run counter to the clear policy of the Act reflected in section 9(3) and 10(3).

The assistance afforded by foster parents to the effective functioning of any system of child care was invaluable and should never be discouraged. There was no role, nevertheless, which would nor-

mally make it necessary for them to be joined formally as parties to proceedings in which the future upbringing of children in their temporary care was in issue.

There would generally be ample means for making their views known to the court, either directly as witnesses or indirectly through the enquiries of the guardian ad litem, without the necessity of adding them formally as parties.

The clear intention of Parliament, to be inferred from section 38 of the Act, was that the regime of an interim care order should operate as a tightly run procedure closely monitored by the court and affording to all parties an opportunity of frequent review as events unfolded during the currency of the order.

That purpose would be frustrated if a practice were to be allowed to grow up under which renewals of interim care orders were routinely sought by local authorities without any attempt to keep the court up to date with progress, or were granted by the court perfunctorily without any of the enquiries necessary to eliminate the risk of essential disclosure being lost through administrative lethargy.

Lord Justice Slynn and the Master of the Rolls agreed.

Solicitors: Sharpe Pritchard for Mr Richard C. Wilkinson, Bedford; Fictions, Luton; Knowles Benting, Luton; Neves, Luton; Cooke & Sons, Luton.

White and Others v Chief Adjudication Officer and Another
Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith
[Judgment July 21]

A private residential care home was a hospital or similar institution for long-term elderly and mentally infirm persons who could not claim for income support while they were residents.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the appeal of the Chief Adjudication Officer and the Secretary of State for Social Security against the dismissal by Mr Commissioner R. A. Sanders on October 1, 1992 of their appeal from the decision of the social security appeal tribunal on September 24, 1991 to allow the appeal of Mr Percival Thomas White against the decision of the adjudication officer to reject his claim for income support.

Mr Richard Drabble for the adjudication officer and secretary of state; Mr Mark Rowland for Mr White.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the case was said to present a test case and that Mr White had been joined by 13 other applicants all of whom were elderly and mentally infirm persons who had spent a number of years in the St Francis Hospital, Haywards Heath, but who had been discharged in March 1991 from that hospital and had been transferred to the Forest Lodge nursing home in Nutley near Uckfield.

The local health authority had wished to implement a scheme for such a transfer of long-term psychological patients from hospitals to a nursing home. Forest Lodge was a private home registered under the Registered Homes Act 1984 as a nursing home and as a residential care home.

On February 13, 1991 an agreement was entered between the Mid-Downs Health Authority and the proprietor of Forest Lodge, Mr S. H. Sachdev, whereby he permitted the health authority to nominate 18 elderly mentally ill persons to reside in Forest Lodge.

A written quote approval for a block grant under the terms of that agreement to be charged per week for those 18 beds was signed on the same day (£2,520) and the equivalent block grant cost per bed per week was £140. It stated that all former patients would claim income support payable to the nursing home and personally retain the pocket money element of the payment.

Mr White and the other applicants claimed income support as an invalidity benefit. Mr White's claim was dated March 22, 1991 and stated that he expected to stay in the Forest Lodge nursing home permanently at a cost of £350 per week, payable by monthly instalments.

On May 31, 1991 the adjudica-

tion officer rejected Mr White's claim and decided that Mr White was treated as being a hospital inpatient and his income exceeded the applicable amount.

The amount of any entitlement to income support fell to be determined by reference to regulations 17 to 22 of the Income Support (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1967) and related schedules. Regulation 17 defined a claimant's weekly applicable amount as an aggregate and regulation 19 referred to applicable amounts for persons in residential care and nursing homes.

But regulation 19 did not apply to regulation 21, applicable amounts in special cases. Regulation 21(3) defined "patient" as "a person (other than a prisoner) who is receiving free inpatient treatment within the meaning of the Social Security (Hospital In-Patients) Regulations (SI 1975 No 555)," regulation 2(2).

At the time of Mr White's application for income support, he was a patient within the meaning of regulation 2(2) for he received inpatient treatment in a hospital or similar institution.

Section 128 of the National Health Act 1977 defined a hospital or similar institution as any institution for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from illness, any maternity home or any institution for the reception and treatment of persons requiring medical attention.

In the light of the definition of "hospital" in section 128 and case

law, such as *Minister for Health v Royal Midland Counties Home for Incurables* (1954) 1 Ch 530 where the Court of Appeal had held that a home established for the purpose of reception of persons requiring medical services and care was a hospital, Forest Lodge was to be termed a "hospital or similar institution".

The proportion of professional nurses and the need for resident doctors had to be determined by the requirements of patients and the needs for nursing.

Within the definition of "hospital" nursing need not be the dominant purpose. If the requirement of nurses was so minimal such a place might not be a hospital but Forest Lodge had agreed to maintain a permanent and resident staff, including nurses, and was a hospital within the definition of regulation 2(2).

Under the 1977 Act, the health authority had a function of providing hospital accommodation. Under the agreement Forest Lodge was contractually obliged to the health authority to make a bed available for Mr White and to provide appropriate nursing staffing levels. The agreement was made by the health authority "in exercise of functions on behalf of the secretary of state under those Acts" and accordingly was an arrangement of the type contemplated by regulation 2(2)(b).

Lord Justice Russell and Lord Justice Stuart-Smith agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Department Social Security; Mr Ian K. Byrne.

Power to seek papers through foreign court

Panayiotou and Others v Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd
Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor
[Judgment July 15]

The court had an inherent jurisdiction to issue a letter of request to the judicial authorities of a foreign country seeking their aid in the production of documents which would constitute material evidence in the matter before it.

Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on motions issued by Georgios Panayiotou, professionally known as George Michael, Robobob Ltd and Big Ceat Overseas Ltd against Sony Music Entertainment (UK) Ltd, formerly CBS United Kingdom Ltd.

Mr Mark Cran, QC and Mr Pushpinder Saini for the plaintiffs; Mr Gordon Pollock, QC and Mr David Unwin for the defendant.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that in January 1988 George Michael, as the first plaintiff was known professionally, and two of his companies, entered into agreements with the defendant, a company carrying on business in this country, then known as CBS United Kingdom Ltd.

By the agreements George Michael tied himself to the defendant in respect of all his performances as a recording artist, for a substantial period of years. He had now brought proceedings claiming that he was not bound by the agreements in that they were unlawful restraint of trade.

George Michael was in the course of obtaining discovery from the defendant, which had been taken over by the Sony Corporation of Japan. CBS was now part of the worldwide Sony group and on some of the issues raised in the action documents in the possession of other companies in the Sony group would be material.

Those companies were not parties to this action, so George Michael could not obtain discovery from them.

The plaintiffs applied to the court for the issue of a letter of request, addressed to the New York court, seeking that court's assistance in relation to a Sony group company carrying on business in New York, Sony Music Entertainment Inc (SMEI).

The plaintiffs wished the New York court to require SMEI to produce certain documents held by SMEI and also sought to have certain individuals orally examined before the New York court on certain issues.

The defendants submitted, that

as far as the documents were concerned, the English court had no jurisdiction to issue the letter of request sought. Under Order 39, rule 2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, a forerunner of which was the Court of Appeal in *Cape Copper Co v Comptoir d'Escompte de Paris* (1890) 39 WR 763, an English court could request the examination of a witness in a foreign court and that witness could be required to produce documents, but it had no jurisdiction to issue a letter of request to issue a letter of request concerning only with the production of documents.

If that were correct, it would reveal a serious lacuna. *Penn-Texas Corporation v Murray Anstalt* (1964) 1 QB 40 decided that a company could not be required to attend, by its proper officer, to give oral evidence. Thus an order to produce a company's documents could not be directed to an individual; the order had to be directed at the company.

In other words, an order to produce documents pursuant to a letter of request could only be an order to attend for examination and such an order did not lie against a company.

If that were correct, it would mean that the letter of request procedure would never be available to compel production of

documents which belonged to a company and were in its possession. That could not be right.

In his Lordship's view, the court's power to issue a letter of request stemmed from the jurisdiction inherent in the court to do those acts which the court had to do to maintain its character as a court of justice. See per Lord Diplock in *Bremer Vulkan v South India Shipping Corporation Ltd* (1968) AC 909, 977.

It was important to keep in mind that when a letter of request was issued, the English court was doing no more than to make a request to a foreign court for assistance. It was not making an order addressed to a foreign court or to witnesses.

Further, the subject matter on which assistance was sought, the obtaining of evidence, was one over which the court had long exercised close control and was a subject peculiarly within the court's own control. Thus, the process by which the court compelled the attendance of witnesses or the production of documents as evidence, was a process whose source was the court's own inherent powers.

Accordingly, his Lordship would make an order directing the issue of a letter of request for the production of certain documents.

Solicitors: Russell's Clintons.

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Solicitors: Russell's Clintons.

Multi-period assessments global

Commissioners of Customs and Excise v Le Riffi Ltd
Before Mr Justice Leonard
[Judgment July 27]

When the Commissioners of Customs and Excise thought that value-added tax returns were incomplete or incorrect and issued an assessment covering numerous accounting periods, that constituted a single global assessment and not a series of individual assessments.

Mr Justice Leonard so held in the Queen's Bench Division in giving a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal brought by the commissioners against the decision of a value-added tax tribunal, chaired by Mr Neil Elles, on July 8, 1991 allowing an appeal by Le Riffi Ltd that the assessment issued by the commissioners in respect of 24 accounting periods pursuant to paragraph 4(1) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983 was a single assessment.

Since the first prescribed accounting period was more than six years before the date of the assessment it was out of time and had to be treated as a nullity pursuant to section 22(1) of the Finance Act 1983. As the commissioners had concluded that they

were bound by *Don Pasquale (a Firm) v Commissioners of Customs and Excise* (1990) STC 550, it was not possible to delete the assessment in respect of the first period and maintain that it was valid as to the other 23 quarters.

Mr Nigel Fleming, QC, for the commissioners; Mr Edward Cohen for the taxpayer.

MR JUSTICE LEONARD said that *Don Pasquale* was similar on its facts to the present case. The commissioners had issued notices of assessment covering 25 periods.

Mr Fleming sought to distinguish that case from the present on the ground that it was concerned with the hardship provisions contained in section 40(3) of the 1983 Act and that on its facts the case had determined that the assessment was a single global one.

He submitted that, in the present case, there was in reality, a series of 24 individual assessments, each relating to identified periods. The taxpayer was notified of the assessment in a convenient form.

The fact that the first period had been incorrectly included because of the six-year limitation provisions in section 22(1) of the Finance Act 1983, could be overcome by severing that individual

assessment and leaving the rest operative.

An essential part of the decision of the Court of Appeal in the *Don Pasquale* case was that, on the facts which were to all intents and purposes identical, "it was wholly unreal to treat the three pages of running assessments as 25 separate assessments... rather than one assessment."

In his Lordship's judgment, it was immaterial that *Don Pasquale* case was concerned with the hardship provisions. The decision which his Lordship quoted was stated to be a resolution of "the crucial question which we are asked to consider."

His Lordship could find nothing in the facts of the present case which essentially distinguished it from *Don Pasquale*. The value-added tax tribunal regarded themselves as bound by that decision to hold that there was only one assessment in the present case.

His Lordship too held that he was bound by the *Don Pasquale* case and concluded that there was only one assessment. It followed that the assessment was invalid by the presence of the out-of-time first entry.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Customs and Excise; Tario Lyons.

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THEATRE page 28
Fiona Evans in an odd,
original new play that at
its best recalls both Swift
and Edward Bond

ARTS

BOOKS page 29
John Strachey, Labour
cabinet minister:
A politician who
believed in reason?



Goodbye elitism, hallo bums-on-seats

The spirit of commercial realism is changing our publicly funded arts centres. Andy Lavender looks at how mixed bills are paying the bills

You might think it is like finding a can of lager in a case of champagne to hear that a new production of *Godspell*, the Seventies rock musical, opens at the Barbican Hall on Wednesday. Musical revivals, of course, have "recession-beater" stamped all over them. The National Theatre's production of *Coriolanus* transfers to the West End in September, and other revivals of other classics are scheduled for Oldham, Bolton and Cheltenham. But is the Barbican that desperate? If so, it is not alone.

Godspell is the most glittering exemplar of the trend for popular culture to infiltrate the halls of the highbrow. On the South Bank over the next month or so you can find jazz and alternative cabaret rubbing shoulders with the more orthodox classical music and dance offerings. And major concert venues in other parts of the country are opening their doors to rock bands, comics and light entertainment artists. Is British high culture being sold down the river?

Far from being despondent that his venue has to paddle into murky commercial waters, Antony Lewis-Crosby, arts director of the Barbican Hall, exudes enthusiasm. The summer, he explains, is a notoriously difficult period to programme. "We were looking to create something special for a month," he explains. "We chose *Godspell* as one of the most exciting events of the 1970s."

The musical's job in 1993 is to entice a range of people who might then visit the Barbican again. They will be made welcome. "We have a whole series of live gala nights, doing it in the popular way," Lewis-Crosby continues. "Baroque spectacles as opposed to the average concert that might put people off." These, it transpires, are "when you do Handel's *Water Music* with a bit of light spectacular around it."

The idea of son et lumière, Handel might horrify the purists, but the popular way is increasingly the way of the world. Lewis-Crosby points to the concert halls in Cologne and Frankfurt, which devote August and the Christmas period to shows which are markedly more populist than anything in their standard repertoires.

In this country mixed programming holds sway all the year round

at a number of venues. The Colston Hall in Bristol and the Usher Hall in Edinburgh, for instance, no longer offer only classical music. The new Symphony Hall in Birmingham boasts Simon Rattle's CBSO as its resident orchestra, but it also stages middle-of-the-road rock and pop, jazz and folk music, and light comedy shows by the likes of Victoria Wood, Lenny Henry and Ben Elton.

Consider, too, the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, the home of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. This venue signalled its intentions in its very first week of operations, in 1990, when you could have seen

Jason Donovan and the Berlin Philharmonic (admittedly not on the same bill). Since then, Neil Sedaka, Tony Bennett and Tammy Wynette have performed there, as well as Scottish rock bands such as Deacon Blue and Run Rig. There have even

been snooker tournaments there. "We are here to serve all the people," says the hall's director Cameron McNicol, in a gently warning tone. "We don't believe in elitism or anything of that nature. If people want us to do it, we do it."

There are, broadly speaking, two responses to this. The first is to suggest that it is an admirable feature of the postmodern age. The differences between high and low culture have been eroded, and a lifestyle packed with divergent experiences is recommended. It is now perfectly unremarkable to enjoy Beethoven one night, Tony Bennett the next and finish your week with some Belgian performance art.

In addition, while the democratisation of culture since the war has in some respects been slow, it has nevertheless been inexorable. The more progressive venue directors are committed to reaching as wide an audience as possible, and ensuring that the disreputable snobbery which attaches to the arts in some quarters is challenged at every turn.

There is an opposing argument: that this catch-all diversity is a sham. In an increasingly commercial climate it makes challenging or innovative work difficult to programme. It insults the highest achievements of composers and choreographers by slotting them into an opportunistic mish-mash of populist events. And it means that

venues renege on their responsibilities to their funding bodies and audiences, betraying the classical culture they are intended to serve.

This last charge, at least, does not quite stick. In the case of the new halls at Birmingham and Glasgow, the remit from the city councils was precisely that a wide-ranging programme should be pursued. And this is now officially the case with the South Bank Centre in London, following a detailed appraisal last year by its main funding body, the Arts Council.

"We need to get away from the idea that the South Bank halls are

just temples of classical music," admits Graham Sheffield, the centre's director of music. "We are concerned with the over-provision of classical concerts of a similar type, so we will be looking to thin out the ones that have a grey nature to them."

"We are not going to neglect the mainstream side of the orchestral repertoire at all, but I have tried to make sure that I have got a broad range of talents within the department. The range of knowledge here covers everything from Renaissance motets to Indian classical music to folk and contemporary jazz."

Indeed it seems that no art form is now barred. Artists as different

as Billy Bragg and the Count Basie Orchestra represent the new populism, and according to Jenny Waldman, director of arts centre projects: "If there are promoters who are doing really interesting cabaret and who could promote into any of our concert halls, then we want them to promote at the South Bank." To this end, the centre has sent the appropriate smoke signals by appointing as its new head of performing arts Carolyn Graham, whose experience at the Brighton Festival has put her in close touch with the worlds of alternative cabaret and performance art.

The executive mantra — this is clearly company policy — is that the

centre will balance incoming productions more carefully, to ensure high quality work across a wide range of art forms. This raises the spectre of a disappointing conservatism, leaning shamelessly towards the mainstream and kowtowing to the tried and trusted: even alternative cabaret has its orthodoxies.

But Sheffield points to recent South Bank Centre events such as *The Merry Widow*, *Meltdown* (a week-long showcase of contemporary performance and music) and the Aboriginal Festival as examples of a concern to cater for both conventional and adventurous tastes. "I like seeing those audiences collide and mix," he adds.

Collision is likely to be the mode for visitors to the South Bank and elsewhere over the next few years. We are witnessing a distinct shift of priorities, towards a much more eclectic programming mix for the 1990s. It is too early to predict the effects, but the breeze it is generating is not in doubt. Perhaps *Godspell* is only the beginning. As Antony Lewis-Crosby at the Barbican cheerfully asserts: "It's open doors for everybody."

Godspell, directed by Lindsay Dolan, previews tomorrow and opens on Wednesday at the Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (07-638 8591). Performances continue, Tuesday to Saturday (plus bank holiday August 30), until August 31.



Answer to the Barbican Centre's prayers? The principals from the production of *Godspell* (from left): James Gaddas, Gemma Craven, Mark Greenstreet, Andy Crane

ROCK CONCERT

Dark forces in the limelight

THIS was a billing of consummate strangeness. Both Depeche Mode — electro-poppers turned rockers — and the Sisters of Mercy — an archly gothic band — have their own devotional and very separate followings. Both bands were making their sole British appearances for this year on a single stage. Sisters fans, clad in all kinds of black *Nosferatu* chic, mingled with Depeche followers, dressed to a man in a variety of turtlenecks. Despite a passing similarity in the subject matter both bands — concern themselves with — concern themselves with — that is, doomy, febrile love songs that at times beg for Freudian analysis — it was clear that two markedly different agendas were operating.

Given their predilection for dark and smoky atmospherics, Andrew Eldritch and his two guitar-wielding Sisters, Andreas Bruhn and Adam Pearson — had a lot of daylight to contend with. Arriving on stage at Crystal Palace with typically minimal ceremony, their smoke macerated belching like a giant chimes belching like a giant uncontrolled barbecue, it took several songs before the Sisters swung into their impressive stride. Doktor Avalanche — a bass and drum machine — punched out rapid staccato beats while Eldritch worked through a great effect vocabulary. "Detonation Boulevard" and the intricate weavings of "Alice" were greeted by thunderous cheers

**Depeche Mode/
Sisters of Mercy
National Sports
Centre, SE19**

as the sun sank behind the horizon. Two hit singles — "Temple of Love" and "This Corrosion" — were magnificent, encapsulating the Sisters' tenor of cruel and unrequited lust, while an encore of "Flood" and "Vision Thing" were everything that rock 'n' roll requires to maintain its edgy power.

All the while, Depeche Mode fans waved brown folders marked with crosses. These were not, as they seemed at first glance, some talisman to ward off any ethereal presences conjured up by Eldritch, but souvenir programmes to mark their band's latest album, *Songs of Faith and Devotion*. The group was masterfully theatrical. An electronically generated thunder storm preceded Depeche Mode's arrival on the stage, where singer David Gahan cavorted, below the large light-boxes on which his three-strong band were perched. From first song — "Higher Love" — to last — "Everything Counts" — Gahan was accompanied by a stadium filled with word-perfect fans.

There was something monumental about the proceed-



David Gahan of Depeche Mode at Crystal Palace

ings and it was a performance of poise and skill. Since their early Eighties incarnation as bleach-haired Basildon boys singing songs of love to the accompaniment of electronic keyboards, Depeche Mode have grown up in public. Their mature sound, provided by the writing skills of Martin Gore, is tailored for a stadium audience. Their growing thoughtfulness loses nothing in the translation to such massive success.

There were some nice touches. A string quartet, making a brief appearance for "One Caress", provided a lush texture to the massive sweeps of Alan Wilder and Andrew Fletcher's synthesizers. Gahan

has become a communicative, sympathetic frontman of considerable appeal. Gore, who ventured down stage for "Judas", "Caress" and "Mercy On You", has the warmer voice which resonates with an intimacy unencumbered by the overwhelming orchestrations of their songs.

The moon was high as Depeche Mode swung into the swampy blues riff of their first encore, "Personal Jesus", and the stage glowed blue under the are lights. If the audience filed out, believing themselves to have been touched by a real presence, they would not have been mistaken.

LOUISE GRAY

TELEVISION: Lynne Truss survives exposure to real dramatic writing

Longing for the next playtime

When stage plays are adapted for television, these days, it seems to entail a great deal of unnecessary soul-searching. Will the television audience endure the boredom of the single set? Will they be confused by the convention of the unities? Won't their poor little 15-second attention spans collapse from the strain during monologues? Personally, I wish they would give us credit for some brains, but this is a jaded opinion, based on exposure to an excessive number of moody two-part thrillers, concerned with identical twins.

The screening of Billy Roche's much-garlanded *Wexford Trilogy* (BBC 2) — which started, on Saturday, with *Poor Beast in the Rain* (1989) — therefore represents a daring broadcasting decision, if not for the obvious reason. Simply, it let the viewers know what they were missing, and some of us are hopping mad. You mean to say that *Thicker than Water* is not the ne plus ultra of modern dramatic writing? Then why do we have to put up with it? If the miracle of television brings us real sport, real music and real films, why does it serve up those pappy films-for-TV instead of real plays? Admittedly Simon Curtis's "Performance" strand is generally excellent, but it's a drama ghetto and it's tiny.

To be fair, however, perhaps the point about *Poor Beast in the Rain* was that it suited the camera particularly well, making the transition look easy. Set in a small, peeling Wexford betting shop (not a real one! a stage set), and

concerned with those old Chekhovian heart-break themes of regret and one-way love, it was certainly a play with great potential for the significant reaction close-up. Director Stuart Burge was sometimes fussy about camera angles, but on the other hand he never let you forget the essential virtue of live theatre: that the actors are acting *all the time*.

The theme was modest: the wanderer returned. "Did you hear anything about Danger Doyle being back in town?" says Joe (Des McAleer). Joe is apt to throw back his head and reminisce about good old times with Danger (Liam Cunningham); conspicuously, he is eager to see him. But the news is a shock to Molly (Ingrid Craigie), who has never forgiven Danger for leaving, ten years ago; also to the betting-shop's owner Steven (Michael O'Hagan), whose wife he stole; and to Eileen (Dervla Kirwan), Steven's daughter, who pines for her long-lost Mammy in England.

Danger, when he turns up, is quiet and apologetic. Yet he changes things for everyone, not least young Georgie (Gary Lydon), whose unspoken adoration of Eileen flips to cruelty in the unprecedented climate of drunken inebriation that ensues. The peculiar gift of this play (shared by its two companion pieces, *A Handful of Stars* and *Belfry*) is its humane sense of

scale, the writer's perfect understanding that it's the emotion that's big or small, not the person. The brilliant Irish cast (from last year's Bush revival) understood this, too. When Danger asks Eileen to return with him to England, to see her mother, he mentions a musical-box she treasures, which they bought in London. "When we got back to the auld flat we were livin' in, I lit a fire and she hunched over it, starnin' into the flames with the music-box on her lap. I think that's when it began to dawn on me that there was a certain corner of her heart I'd never be able to sweep clean."

How does this theatre thing work, then? Do you just buy a ticket, or what?



Eileen (Dervla Kirwan) and Danger (Liam Cunningham) in *Poor Beast in the Rain*

Some things are just not Donne

Caroline Moore

CAMPION'S GHOST
By Garry O'Connor
Hodder & Stoughton, £15.99

The egotistical genius of John Donne, word-centred and self-obsessed, might be expected to attract a certain sort of novelist. I expected Garry O'Connor's book to be the showcase for flamboyant and rather exhausting pastiche, in the style of Anthony Burgess. O'Connor, however, is no Burgess — which might be a relief, but isn't.

discusses his "sex-drives" with Donne; and many of the characters sound as though they were going in for let's-talk-it-through self-help therapy.

discusses his "sex-drives" with Donne; and many of the characters sound as though they were going in for let's-talk-it-through self-help therapy.

No one, in any century, ever spoke like this. Where the dialogue is closest to the movements of the spoken word, it springs only into the zombie-life of California-speak.

Underhill! You want to destroy my soul, to stop me being myself. All this sits very oddly with the fragments of genuine Donne. But what can you expect from a man who jams the famous epigram on grace from Camden's Remains next to a smutty limerick — though the novel is set several centuries before the first known example of the genre? (This one is complete with a pun upon "coming" which is about three hundred years before its time — a very premature ejaculation.) Or take the

spurious lyricism of this sentence: "Ye Kate: her blue and steady eyes, her sleek dark hair as brilliant as the new lacquer from the east, her skin white as a camellia."

Doyen of the shifting party line

Hugh Thomas tracks the mercurial mind of a Labour minister who enthusiastically espoused the leading ideologies of his time

Celia Strachey asked me to write a biography of her late husband. My book, which appeared in 1973, tried to interweave John Strachey's personal and political life. In dwelling on his personal relationships, however, I neglected some of Strachey's intellectual achievements. Noel Thompson has now written an admirable study, which, while ignoring Strachey's personal and family life, traces his intellectual development very well indeed.

Strachey was a politician who believed in reason. He experienced nearly everything which political life had to offer in his time, which was a great deal. He was the son of St Loe Strachey, a hard-working editor of *The Spectator* of weight and erudition, and a cousin of Lytton Strachey and other Bloomsburies. Educated at Eton, he would tease ladies who asked why he had become a communist by explaining that it was resentment at failing to get into the cricket XI. At Oxford he was a conservative, and was also active in amateur dramatics.

JOHN STRACHEY
An intellectual biography
By Noel Thompson
Macmillan, £40



Fighting communism: John Strachey as secretary of state for war inspects a village guard on a tour of Malaysia during the emergency

But Strachey, persuaded by his determined wife, Celia, to embark on analysis with Ernest Jones, had begun to move away from Marxism before. Both J.M. Keynes and Franklin Roosevelt had also seemed to suggest a democratic middle way. Even so, it was the national crisis of 1940, not Stalin's pact with Hitler in 1939, which caused Strachey to make his decisive move.

To those who had followed Strachey's previous unpredictable moves, it may not have been a surprise to find him within a few months as adjutant on a bomber base at Grantham, with much the same admiration for Air Marshal

Stressor that he had once had for Dutt and Mosley. He spent the rest of the war explaining the point of view of the RAF to a national audience through the BBC (an institution to which he had been introduced by Guy Burgess).

Wing Commander Strachey was returned to Parliament in Dundee in 1945 and, after a short spell as under-secretary of air, became (with remarkable speed) minister of food under Clement Attlee. In that capacity, he rationed bread unnecessarily, and made himself a national laughing stock with his approval of the high-minded but badly executed Tanganyika groundnuts scheme. He seems to have been happier as

PAPERBACKS

SAILOR SONG
By Ken Kesey
Black Swan, £6.99
KESEY's first novel for nearly 30 years is set in Alaska and in an economically marginal and Aids-ridden future. Descendants of Early Aboriginal People (Deaps) struggle with immigrants from the now disunited states (Lower 48s) for a thin subsistence won from the sea and from garbage-dump hog farming. Like Sallars's studiously reckless life, netting salmon for his boss Alice Carmody to can, starts to fall apart when Alice's albino mega-bucks son sails in with a film crew to find locations. *Sailor Song* has the comic strip pace and elisions of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, but little of its sentimental mythicising. A warmer and maturer work.

THE KNIGHT OF CHEERFUL COUNTERANCE
By Molly Keane
Virgo, £5.99
KEANE's first novel, written when she was only 17, was published in 1926 by Mills & Boon. In form it is indeed a romance, set in the familiar Keane territory of the Irish country house, where happiness is horse-shaped and misery is an ill-fitting hunting boot. But within the conventional story of the English captain on a visit to his pretty Irish cousins and the romantic tangles that ensue, the mocking tones of Keane's distinctive voice can already be heard. Her heroines are calculating little minxes. Their world has a scent of corruption about it, and a hint of the surreal.

SPRING STREET SUMMER
By Christopher Hudson
Penguin, £6.99
IN THE summer of '76, as a student researching the Western concept of paradise, the young author stumbled across the real thing in the garden of his lodgings in Santa Cruz, California. The bougainvillea bloomed, the days swelled and everyone got high and sat naked among the lemon trees to talk about truth and love. In this seductive autobiography, Hudson revisits his garden of Eden and those who shared it with him, to discover just how far the illusion departed from reality. The result is hugely enjoyable. Wisdom and scholarship combine in a wistful yearning for innocence lost.

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A real taste of power

President Kennedy was a Coca-Cola addict, as were Presidents Truman, Johnson and Eisenhower. Reagan and Nixon were Pepsi-men, determined to back the arch rival. Mr Nixon even fought to win the evil empire of the old Soviet Russia for Pepsi. While Jimmy Carter, backed for president in 1976 by Coke, once bragged "We have our own built-in State Department in the Coca-Cola Company."

Why should a mere soft drink be accorded such geopolitical status? From obscure origins a century ago as a patent medicine containing the nerve stimulant cocaine (later removed) and kola nuts (awash with caffeine — and still there) it led to the rise of a Fortune 100 company that for much of the century seemed to embody the American way of life: "the sublimated taste of America."

But, as Mark Pendergrast reveals, there was a darker side to the advertising jingles of "Things go better" Coca-Cola was a company that used lawyers and private detectives to drive its rivals into bankruptcy. In 1913 the Coca-Cola bottlers even won after a deaf mute had lost one of his remaining senses when blinded by shards from an exploding bottle. In an otherwise largely celebratory account Pendergrast does not flinch from the Georgia-based company's racism or the enthusiasm of one of its revered founders for the manifold benefits of child labour.

Coke profited from the "American century", sending in bottling plants behind the advancing GIs in Europe and the Far East, piggy-backing on American diplomatic and trade advances, becoming one of the most widely recognised brand names in the world.

American public, who regarded the drink as a national icon, rebelled. "Would it be right to rewrite the Constitution, or the Bible?" asked one. "There are only two things in my life: God and Coca-Cola. Now you have taken one of these things away from me," protested another.

In the face of a huge drop in sales, the company backtracked. A shocked Coke manager listening to the consumer hot-line staggered away in disbelief: "They talk as if Coca-Cola had just killed God."

The irony was that Coca-Cola itself had built up the myth of the drink's secret formula, keeping it a trade secret and even withdrawing from the Indian market in 1977 rather than reveal its recipe.

Pendergrast obligingly prints the entire Coca-Cola formula. Alas, even if you followed every last gram of sugar, caramel, caffeine, phosphoric acid, kola nuts, lime and coriander oil, without hundreds of millions worth of advertising and a ruthless corporate culture, the result (however authentic) simply wouldn't be the Real Thing.

In the grip of guilt

David Mason: more clarity than imagination

IN MICHAEL Tolkin's book *Among the Dead* (Faber, £14.99) a Californian businessman arranges a family holiday in Mexico during which he intends to confess his infidelity. But, by dallying over his farewell to his mistress, he misses the plane, which crashes with wife and child on board.

The aftermath of their cruel exit is, unexpectedly, a grisly comedy of public and private embarrassment, reminiscent of a Billy Wilder movie at its blackest, and of vintage Patricia Highsmith. Tolkin pays meticulous attention to the sudden, violent emotions just below the most ordinary surfaces. His disjointed, obsessive protagonist at first luxuriates in his guilt and is then unmarked by it.

The always entertaining Leslie Waller takes on Cuba, the Bay of Pigs, and reshuffles the pack on the question of who killed JFK in *Tango Havana* (Heinemann, £14.99). The Joker is Philby, in all the right places at the right time, supporting the thesis that Kennedy's elimination wasn't a conspiracy as such, more "a fateful succession of opportunities". Waller knows better than most the secret assemblies that decide history and how real power is invisible. He enjoys his material, and it shows — superior fun, on a par with Ross Thomas and Richard Condon.

In *A Shred of Honour* by J.K. Mayo (Harvill, £14.99) M16 is drafted in to hush up a scandal involving chemical weaponry sold to African states, which, if made public, would reflect badly on HMG. The unravelling is tortuous and full of prevarication, with a narrative thumped down at the pace of fast steamers liable to break

sign of confidence that the success of *The Debt* and *The Joker* is there to be repeated. The debt to it (and to *Rogue Male*) is obvious, though the lone assassin is substituted by a more fashionable SAS-type team. Saddam Hussein is the target (a safe bogey man), the go-between a Maxwell-type tycoon — Mason plays his high cards first. As an ex-officer he writes as you would expect, with more clarity than imagination.

The *Chinese Moon* by Robert Ferrigno (Simon & Schuster, £14.99) has a counter-culture/journalist investigating today's equivalent to Chandler's California, uncovering a conspiracy that never shakes off an air of *déjà vu*. Ferrigno's plots aren't as good as his writing, but he is readable on sun-soaked lives on the moral slide.

Along Came a Spider by James Patterson (HarperCollins, £14.99), a story of the kidnapping of the kids of celebrities acknowledges its debt to the Lindbergh case. But this fails to disguise routine genre writing, fashionably overlong, and with a silly final twist.

The colonial asphyx of Hong Kong contains its share of dodgy chancers, rich and poor, all anxious about time running out. Chinese hatred of the white man (*gwalli*) fuels Robin Blake's tale of greed — *Gwalli* (Viking, £14.99) — in which a monstrous TV evangelist and a seely blackmailing Englishman (a distant relative of Greene) collide. Blake sees Hong Kong with more detachment than usual, and with his first two thrillers has shown a knack for picking the right spot.

CHRIS PETIT

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write in the first instance to: Box No 3368, The Times, P O Box 484,
Virginia Street, London E1. enclosing proof of ownership in the form of a
Stock Certificate or Invoice. All Claims should be lodged by 1st October
1993.

It is our intention to sell, at the best price available, all wines left unclaimed
at 1st October 1993.

BALLANTINE R A W	GRiffin J M	PERKS H C H
BANNER E	HARPER C R	PHOENIX INVESTMENTS
BENZ	HARWOOD A	POLLOCK-HILL M
BOYER M	HORNER G	PRIDEAUX C
BRANDELL Mrs Lucy	HUNT R	READ J L
AIKBECK	ITAMI W E	REDDY J
BROWN W	JONES J A	ROSE P
AULL	JOYNSON G W	ROUNDTREE
		(Nom Miss Roland)
BURTON M	LEE Dr A	RUSSELL M J
CASTLE	LEITCH Mrs S	SCHOLFIELD A
CHANDLER N	LONGDEN D R	SIMS J A
CLARKE M A	MARSH M S	SMITH-GORDON
CLARKE Major R	MARTEN F W	STEPHEN WII
CLAYSON C G	MASON	STUBBS R
(Nom B Greener)		
COOKE E Exas of the Life	MAST	TARRANT A
COOPER	MAURITZEN Dr	THORSEN K
COPOCK S E	MCMORLAND-HUNTER	TURNBULL
DAVIES R M	MELTUS Master	VAUGHAN J W K
DOBSON-VIDA Miss F	MONTGOMERIE R	WELLS
DRESZEN Simon	PERKS H C H	WHITWORTH-FRENCH T
ELLWOOD J F	MORTON J	WILLIAMS C H
ELLIOT P	MUCKLESON T C	WILSON S
EVANS D M	O'DONOGHUE	WRIGHT
FLYNN	O'HAGAN Donald	YOUNGER
GREIG J	PARK G	YOUNGER D

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF
COMPANY LIMITED
On 14th July 1993 the above
named company was placed in
members voluntary liquidation
and the liquidator, Mr J. J. J.
of 19A Cavendish Square,
London W1M 9AB, is available
for the purpose of receiving
claims against the company.
The liquidator gives notice that
the creditors of the company must
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the 14th day of August 1993.
The liquidator also gives notice
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EDUCATION



Time to experiment: Robin Wilson believes that secondary schools should do away with exams at 16 and replace them wholesale with one at 15

Top marks for Dearing

Robin Wilson welcomes today's curriculum review as 'mighty achievement' and offers some radical suggestions of his own to reshape the system

There was a time when the summer was a period of peaceful relaxation. Government activity closed down, and for the teaching profession weeks of uninterrupted unwinding stretched ahead.

No longer. For those in secondary education, anticipation of the dreary journalistic and now governmental obsession with league tables keeps intruding. More importantly, the publication today of Sir Ron Dearing's interim report on the National Curriculum arrangements demands total attention. For a change, a report in the holiday period is being looked at with an optimistic rather than irritated eye.

Sir Ron has a mighty achievement to his credit: he has gained the initial confidence of the profession during his discussions. He has done this by exercising the basic virtues of really listening and then independently reflecting on what he has heard. His report should offer hope that what is so good in the concept of the National Curriculum (and there is very much which is good) will be put into a position where it can flourish because what has been so bad (and there has been very much which is bad) will be excised.

Let us hope that all the players in the game — most especially the government —

will now be ready to act cohesively and purposefully.

The main objective must be to get the present system right, and Sir Ron is undoubtedly correct in saying that there has been too much change too rapidly; it is difficult to reconcile the political time-scale, which is inevitably a short one, with the longer educational time-scale.

Sir Ron was given a brief, the four specific questions in which were all concerned with improving, but not changing the basic structure. In the short and medium term, this must be the right course of action. However, there are a number of factors which suggest that we might be wise for the longer term to question some of the assumptions on which our system is based.

Our system could be described as being in four distinctive compulsory stages, preceded and followed by less universally used stages (nursery, and post school-leaving age). The compulsory stages, each concluded with formal testing, are infants, juniors, pre-GCSE and GCSE. The exhaustive nature of testing (at a high financial cost) at the

end of compulsory education is based on the assumption that, for most, it will be the end of formal education. For the rest, an incredibly rapid and very difficult process starts, be it traditional A levels, the newly named "vocational A levels", or specific job-related qualifications. Higher education follows.

This particular model is already very obviously inappropriate for what is actually happening, and suggests that the present system will have to be replaced.

Far from the majority leaving at 16, 66 per cent of 16-year-olds were in full-time education in 1991-92, and a further 10 per cent in part-time education. The government has had to put the brakes on to prevent its own target of 33 per cent of the age cohort taking degree-bearing courses being reached too soon. The ambitious National Education and Training Target that 50 per cent of the age cohort should reach A level or equivalent standard by the year 2000 might seem to be achievable.

It must be doubted that such

standards will be reached, however, unless more radical changes take place. Tensions growing under the force of demand suggest that the inadequacies of present arrangements mean that we are coming towards the end of a dying system. The A-level system was never intended for a wide market, nor does it for many of its own users meet student demand to develop all those abilities and skills which they know they will need as adults; the new "vocational A-levels" can be seen as even more limiting.

Students have to make decisions with far-reaching effects at an early age and before experiencing their response to advanced education. (We should reflect on the fact that only a minority of Scottish university students take their finals in a subject they favoured on entry.) Higher education is having to work with incredible rapidity to absorb what has become a mass market in a ludicrously short period between mid-August and October.

These tensions suggest that a different shape to the education pattern will be needed. It

will have to be built on the assumptions that the norm is to continue education after the age of 16, and that a gradual and smoothly graduated discovery of abilities and interests is to be desired. Looked at with those assumptions in mind, a major examination for all at a time when only a shrinking minority take advantage of the end of compulsory education to leave must be questioned.

Educational thinking is now favouring an 14-19 age band rather than 11-16 and 16-19, but I am not convinced that the thinking is sufficiently radical. I would suggest that if the present examinations at 14 and 16 are replaced by one set of examinations at 15, after four years of secondary education, space is created for them to be followed by one, two or three-year courses.

Demanding academic study, demanding but more obviously practical study and specific job-related training would all have more time to be developed in a cross-fertilising way. Most importantly, the individual student would have the time to find out from experience where the appropriate route lay.

Robin Wilson is headmaster of Trinity School of John Whitting, Croydon, and chairman of the Headmasters' Conference. He writes in a personal capacity.

Learning is the way to change a culture

Much of Britain's structure — in education, business and administration — is as outdated as the dinosaur

One of the comforting features of democracy is that while voters cannot always articulate why they are unhappy, they are usually right about the targets for their displeasure.

In Britain today, a host of institutions, great and commonplace, has come under attack: the Foreign Office, the Treasury, the Bank of England and, in sport, institutions like the Jockey Club, the Test and County Cricket Board, and so on. But few people have seriously addressed how their organisational cultures can be changed.

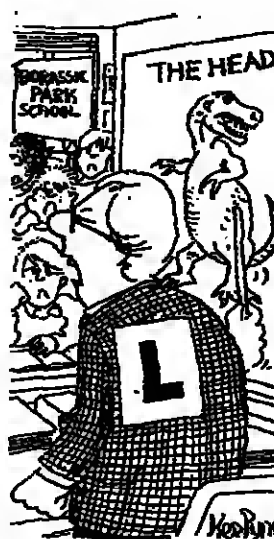
Experience suggests that there are four main ways to change a culture. One is coercion: the change which is forced by a military defeat or by the pressures of the marketplace. The second is contagion, when new people come into an organisation and bring new ways of thinking and doing things. The third is coaching, when an organisation is shown how to change.

But much the best way of changing cultures is the fourth way, learning. Learning, and the idea of a learning organisation and a learning society, is not only a new buzzword. Learning lies at the heart of innovation, and innovation is the key to success. Even in manufacturing, brawn has been replaced by brain and by computer-control.

And these manufacturing brains are supplemented by other brainpower from smaller, knowledge businesses engaged in design, market research, financial advice, consultancy and training. Similar cultures are to be found in industries like fashion, design, music recording, the media and communications. These are the new growth businesses.

Britain's problem is that not enough people are ready for these industries and their cultures. Our state schools were established to produce clerks (who could write) and bookkeepers (who could calculate). They taught children what to do and how to do it. This is of little use for many of the new jobs. These require innovators.

What we need instead is an education system that fosters learning and a new relationship between education and employers. This requires far-



reaching change. Schools still concentrate too much on "chalk and talk" and business on unassisted learning. But the more fundamental problem is that there is too little overlap between schools and the world outside, especially since teachers believe that they, not outsiders, know what children should

wants do not spend too long in a job, but they do spend too long in the public sector. As a result, even those who finally discover how huge is the gap between the public and private sectors do so too late, when they take private sector jobs after retirement.

To create a learning society we need to accept three principles: to change a culture depends on bringing in new questioning. Movement, whether between jobs, organisations or sectors brings new perspectives. A culture in which both generalists and specialists move more freely can only be beneficial.

We need firm rules to establish such principles. At least for those at the top of a substantial organisation, or a major subsidiary, the preceptor should be five years in a job and ten years in an organisation. Similarly, non-executive directors should remain on the board for no more than six years.

There should also be movement of significant numbers of people within and between the public and private sectors, especially at higher levels, and such transfers should be for longer periods: preferably for four or five years. There should similarly be movement of school-teachers into private sector jobs, perhaps for two years.

Finally, opportunities to close public sector bodies should be welcomed. Wherever possible, a public sector body should be established as a project organisation with a clear task.

In the past, many have argued that it might have been better for Britain to have lost the second world war. Defeat made it possible for the Germans to cultivate new cultures.

Something of the same scale is now needed in Britain, to turn around institutions that are no longer performing well. For Britain to prosper requires a new national frame of mind. But it is not for governments to create it. It is up to us.

DOUGLAS HAGUE

Sir Douglas Hague is a fellow of Templeton College, Oxford. His pamphlet, *Transforming the dinosaurs*, is available from Demos, 120 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1GZ.

Six university heads cautiously open their doors to offer a glimpse of life in the academic hotseat

Every student knows that the vice-chancellor is the most powerful figure in the university. But what does he (or, occasionally, she) do all week, and has the era of the academic chief executive really arrived?

Cambridge, the magazine of the Cambridge Society, an organisation for the university's graduates, approached six with Cantabrian connections to find out. Their accounts of life in a university hotseat appear in the current edition of the magazine.

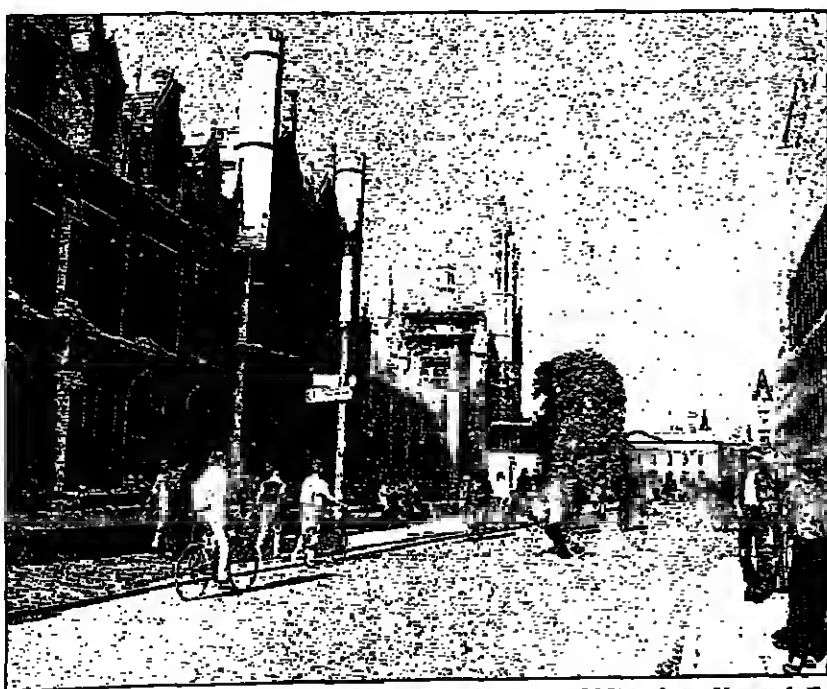
Perhaps not surprisingly, the six give little away about professional power-struggles or scandalous goings-on in the senior common room, let alone the size of their salaries. But the very different ways in which they approach their subject do offer an insight.

One of the six, Sir John Kingman, of Bristol University, prefers to share his thoughts with only the members of the society and did not want them published more widely. James Wright, of Newcastle University, is the only one to offer a diary of a typical week. But all the vice-chancellors seem to agree that their jobs carry more responsibility than power.

Dr Kenneth Edwards, of Leicester University, the new chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, was told on his appointment at Leicester by the then vice-chancellor of Cambridge that he would have "real power". The reality, however, turned out to be far from the strong central director proposed in the Jarratt Report a decade ago.

"The vice-chancellor does have to be a leader but a leader who interprets the role of the university and the aspirations of its members, and suggests courses of action for debate and discussion," Dr Edwards writes. "Of course, a leader

What vice-chancellors do



The Cambridge connection: clockwise from top left, David Harrison, Kenneth Edwards, Martin Harris and Roderick Floud

needs to persuade and to argue forcefully but, in the end, it would be futile to push the university in a direction in which it did not wish to go."

Dr David Harrison, of Exeter University, Dr Edwards' predecessor as VCVP chairman, also considers his formal powers "quite limited", although he admits that the post remains one of considerable influence. He leads an organisation of more than 10,000 people, with a budget of up to £150 million, and has the crucial responsibility for maintaining the university's academic reputation.

Dr Harrison writes: "The maintenance of morale is the primary responsibility of a vice-chancellor. It is, however, possible to overdo it by indulg-

ing in upbeat messages which provide no comfort to staff who are well aware of the real position on the ground, be it inadequate library provision, obsolescent scientific equipment, leaking flat roofs, or over-large tutorial groups."

Like Dr Harrison, Professor Martin Harris, of Manchester University, has held two vice-chancellorships. But, after only a year in post, he considers it too soon to make judgments on Manchester. He refers instead to his five years at Essex, where he found difficulty persuading colleagues that there could be an alternative to the methods of the founding vice-chancellor, Dr Albert Sloman.

Professor Harris writes: "I

found at Essex that the proportion of time which was needed to manage the university as I thought successfully fell fairly sharply after a peak in year one, to perhaps half of all the available time and energy. The remainder of the time was devoted partly to raising Essex's profile within the region, through formal meetings and an extensive social programme in which my wife was fully involved, and partly to contributing to national debates and committees."

Professor Roderick Floud, of London Guildhall University, previously a Fellow of Emmanuel, Cambridge, is the only representative of the new universities. Inevitably, he comes over as the odd one out. Musing on the contrast be-

tween the view from his Cambridge room, "across the pond with its ducks to the beauty of the Wren chapel", and his present vista dominated by the NatWest Tower "now devastated by the latest IRA bomb", he recalls colleagues' incredulity at his move to the capital.

Unlike others in the former polytechnics, he declined to take the title of vice-chancellor when university status arrived last year. He admits that he underestimated the differences between the polytechnics and the traditional universities when he was appointed provost of the old City Polytechnic. But he is an enthusiast for the new sector, criticising the elitist higher education system embodied in the old institutions.

Professor Floud does see himself as the chief executive and, although he retains a research interest in economic history, the job does not leave him with time on his hands. Reluctantly, he has had to give up teaching. "Most academics work hard, but I can honestly say that I have never worked harder, nor dealt with more difficult problems, than in my present job."

James Wright does still manage some teaching, although he wonders if this is too important a function to be entrusted to a vice-chancellor. His diary for a week, in June 1992, saw him amending the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council and the university development trust on one day, cajoling deans into taking on more students on another, and attending a fruitless European conference.

The most obvious common denominator among the six turns out to be food. Dr Harrison was asked before becoming a vice-chancellor whether he "liked dinners", and only later realised what a pertinent question it had been. He says that "a certain social stamina is needed for the job". Mr Wright's week included a lunch in Edinburgh, supper in Newcastle for 40 members of senate and their partners, a reception and dinner in London, entertaining a Japanese businessman to dinner in Newcastle, lunch in London and supper for the university wives international group back at home. There may be differences of opinion on the type of leadership vice-chancellors are expected to supply, but a strong constitution is obviously essential.

JOHN O'LEARY

Six views of vice-chancellorship appears in the current edition of Cambridge.



Sir Ron to the rescue

The Government's education policy hit the rocks this summer with the teachers' test boycott. Sir Ron Dearing's review of the national curriculum, due out today, has to work miracles. Can it win back the support of teachers and parents?

What the Dearing review says, and what it means.

A special report in The TES this Friday.

OUT AUGUST 6

TES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
80P THROUGH NEWSAGENTS EVERY FRIDAY

American lessons for Britain on anti-dependency welfare

Philip Bassett finds
David Hunt, the
employment secretary,
enlivened by a range of
innovative workfare
schemes in Utah

At 300 West & South in Salt Lake City, in the western United States, stands Welfare Square. In this church-run park in the Mormon-dominated state capital of Utah, the grocery store has no cash register: those who pick up its goods are expected to work in return. Homeless down-and-outs begging at the thrift shop for a coat are asked whether they will do a day's work to get it.

While Welfare Square offers no solution to John Major or President Clinton as they each wrestle with big public deficits, largely driven by welfare payments, it does emphasise the anti-something-for nothing work ethic in the city that is at the heart of the workfare systems that David Hunt, the employment secretary, examined in America last week.

Mr Hunt has returned to London enlivened by a range of innovative ideas in the face of Britain's jobless level of nearly three million, but still wary about how they might be translated by a government whose political insecurity was heavily underscored by the Christchurch by-election result.

"I didn't come here either to adopt workfare for Britain, or to find ways of cost cutting benefits," Mr Hunt said at the end of his visit. But just as the business-led Training and Enterprise Councils, which administer all government training programmes in Britain, came from a visit to America by an earlier employment secretary, Mr Hunt accepted that there were features in the workfare schemes he had seen that were attractive.

In spite of the prime minister raising the issue earlier this year, the politically controversial workfare — under which unemployed people are compelled to work or lose their benefits — is not on the agenda for a government with such a small Commons majority and low poll standing. But for Michael Portillo at the Treasury and Peter Lilley at the social services department, just as for President Clinton, reining back on welfare is on the cards.

And just as the pro-workfare Clinton administration was briefed in Washington by officials from Utah on the huge cost savings workfare has brought to Salt Lake City, so Mr Hunt lapped up the exposition by Helen Thatcher, of Utah's office of family support, on how effective the state's workfare programme is in placing the unemployed into jobs — and saving 92 per cent of the cost of the welfare programme it replaced. "People are worried this is a cruel programme," she says. "But we are saying to them: this is your way out of the mire."

Not too far out, though. While 60 per cent of those who go through Utah's Emergency Work Programme get work, a study by Utah University concluded that the jobs were not high-paying enough to make those who had gone on the programme financially independent and self-sufficient. Seven out of ten



Screen aid: David Hunt being shown a computer-assisted vocational guidance programme in the US

were still receiving federal food stamps, available only to the very poor. John Wiley does not see it like that. Now a fountain supervisor in the city's Liberty Park, he says that before he went on workfare he was ready to give up. "I was drunk, hitting the streets, hanging around. I was there with a sign round my neck saying 'No Job — Will Work for Food'."

Like his park colleague and ex-EWP participant, Brian Bloch, who says that after 18 months of being out of work he would not have his job as a crew supervisor now without workfare, he is adamant that there is nothing wrong with working for your benefit.

Shirley Weathers, research director of Utah Issues, an anti-poverty pressure group that would like to see reforms to EWP — including raising its wage from the current level of \$1 to \$3 per hour, well below the federal minimum of \$4.25 — does not disagree about the need to move people off welfare. "I don't think any of us here think that the primary purpose of any public assistance programme is maintaining people on welfare."

Regardless of the arguments, the financial position looks clear enough. When Utah, a decade ago, pulled out of the standard welfare system — like Britain's, not compulsory and offering indefinite public assistance — and moved to a compulsory workfare programme under which no payments are made to claimants until after they have carried out the largely unskilled work to which they are assigned and which

lasts for a maximum of six months, the costs dropped from \$9 million to \$700,000 straight away.

Yet some workfare costs are still high. Because of the high cost of the staff helping people on a scheme called the Single Head of Household Programme, Utah is not expanding it — in spite of its successes, such as Sherry Walton, a 25-year-old mother of two. Now a personal assistant to a food company director and buying her own home, she says the programme rescued her from a background of unemployment and poverty, coupled with drink, drug and sexual abuse. "Most children who grow up on welfare end up on welfare. I have broken that cycle for them. I thank God every day that we have been given a new life and a chance to be something."

Mr Hunt and his officials were impressed by a more cost-effective Utah programme, started only this year, called Speed — the Single Parent Employment Demonstration programme — which, though it cuts benefits by \$100 a month if people refuse to take part in it, does include a written contract that pledges the state to support a self-sufficiency drive back into work by those on the scheme.

John Robb, whose business failed, had been unemployed for three months before he went on the scheme. Now he is a part-time police officer. While convinced he too would not have got a job without workfare, and able to see

the \$100 potential drawback as an "incentive, not a penalty", he was in no doubt about the strength of compulsion. "It's like putting a bone in front of the dog, and getting him to go where you want him to go."

Mr Hunt says he "still has reservations about compulsion", and emphasises the value of the diversity of employment programmes that America has to offer, which Britain could emulate to tailor provision more closely to individual need. Clearly the pro-family Conservative party would have great difficulty in endorsing a programme that requires not just unemployed men but their wives as well to work in order to obtain their benefit, as Utah's EWP scheme does.

Yet the job-gaining rates and the cost savings of anti-dependency welfare programmes such as Utah offers and which Mr Clinton looks likely to use as a national model, are undeniably attractive to UK ministers.

With the poor performance of a pilot, workfare-fused project in Norfolk and a highly sensitive political climate, the government is unlikely to make overt moves towards US-style workfare in Britain. But future unemployment initiatives are likely to bear the marks of what Mr Hunt has seen in America.

Pressures on public spending may yet see Utah-style cuts in benefit provision — such as a move, denied by ministers, to make unemployment benefit payable for six months rather than 12 — come into force a bit closer to home than Welfare Square.

TEMPUS

Golden wonder

THE gold market continues to amaze and confound any investor naive enough to believe that it might be driven by fundamentals. The surge in the gold price on Friday to more than \$400, where it stood at the outbreak of the Gulf war, superficially appeared to be linked to the turmoil in Europe's foreign exchanges. In reality there was little activity in the European markets. Instead most of the buying was done by American commodity funds, in the belief that it would be used by investors as a safe haven.

In recent weeks, gold has been driven by options trading, a classic sign that any market is reaching the end of a bull run. This was the case on Friday when gold traders rushed to cash in their \$400 call options and tried to take positions at \$410 or \$420.

The market looks increasingly overextended. Although George Soros and Sir James Goldsmith may take part of the credit, the recent surge had its origins in China, where a combination of foreign currency relaxations

and rising inflation encouraged heavy buying there and in Hong Kong. Since then, the Chinese authorities have reimposed stiff restrictions on the currency market as part of their determined programme to squeeze inflation out of their system. As a result, physical demand for the metal has weakened and the South-East Asian jewellery fabrication market has also fallen.

The options market will continue chasing its nose, until the market cracks. That only ensures that when the price falls, it will fall all the harder. Today's Western currency turmoil is about deflation, not inflation or conflagration. Indeed, inflation is generally low throughout the OECD and likely to remain low for a while, pointing to a low gold price. The Soros-induced excitement has carried the market a long way, but demand for the metal is weak and that fundamental factor will reassert itself before too long. When that happens, many speculators will be left regretting the whole affair.

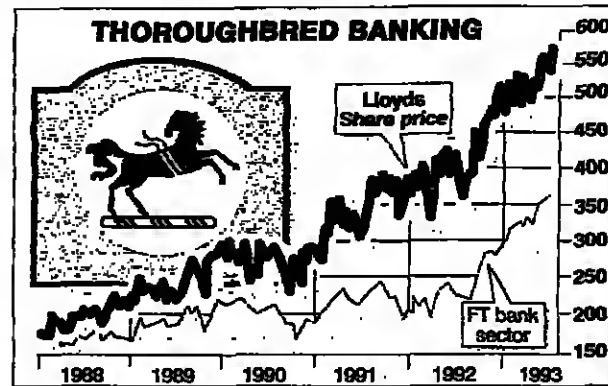
Lloyds Bank

THE obvious enthusiasm of Brian Fitzmaurice, the chief executive, for distributing Lloyds' excess capital to shareholders encapsulates all that is good and bad in the bank. A further example of Lloyds' laudable commitment to shareholder value, it is also another sign that the bank has neither the will nor the opportunity to expand.

Unless it suffers an unexpected mishap, Lloyds will soon be over-capitalised. The bank has strong capital ratios, and retentions will add more than £300 million. It also has excess provisions on its Third World debt portfolio of more than £900 million. These resources might seem comfortable, but with base rates at 6 per cent they will begin to depress the return on capital. Despite this, Lloyds has not tried to use its

wealth for acquisitive expansion, since the failure of last year's offer for Midland. Mr Fitzmaurice is reticent about buying any business, a trait that has served Lloyds well, but may now be over-cautious. A share buy-in would boost Lloyds' earnings ratios, but would do nothing to enhance its market position. Banks face increasing competition

from building societies as they consolidate into national financial services groups. In asset terms, Lloyds' domestic operation is now smaller than the Halifax. A share buy-in might be welcomed by shareholders, but if it relegates Lloyds to the second division, it could be the most expensive acquisition the bank ever makes.



Property debt

NOW is the time for all good property companies to issue bonds. The conditions have been coming right since the start of the year. Yields have fallen on long gilts, the traditional benchmark for property investment, while the income return on even the best properties remains between 8.5 and 9 per cent. In theory, this means that good investment companies can issue debentures at a sensible margin above the 7.8 per cent yield on the long gilt and still more than cover the cost of borrowing in the first year with rental income.

Surprisingly, the market has seen few issuers, with the exception of British Land, ever the trail blazer, which launched a £200 million 9 1/2 per cent debenture in April, at a 90-basis point margin over the equivalent gilt. The problem for many companies is timing: with short-term money available at keener rates, treasurers are reluctant to fix long-term

borrowing just yet, and with equity markets so receptive, many have found it convenient to call on shareholders to fund the next round of spending. They ought to be less compliant.

Sensible gearing is good for property companies and at current levels debentures should attract support. But when the bond issues do arrive, investors need to insist on better protection. Too often, when companies are under pressure to raise extra funds, the debenture assets are raided to use as security for emergency bank finance elsewhere and second-rate properties are substituted in the debenture pool to top up the security. Bond holders deserve better and should demand the right to independent valuations of any property substituted. They should also demand quicker action from the trustees.

New issues

THE heady first-day premium on Sharelink's flotation

last Friday shows that market has lost none of its enthusiasm for new issues. Recent flotations such as Carpetright and Devro International have been enthusiastically received by institutions and private investors alike.

The market has a short memory. Only a year ago, investors were warning their hands about the lack of liquidity in small companies as market-makers abandoned second-line stocks by the hundred. Then came a strong rise in smaller company share prices and the complaints were forgotten.

Figures from KPMG Peat Marwick show that there were 43 listings in the second quarter — the most since 1990. Most were capitalised at less than £30 million with 12 valued at less than £15 million. Recent history shows that when the market turns, trading in these stocks will be thin and spreads will be wide. Then private investors may regret their enthusiasm, however munificent those first-day premiums are.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Partnership problems

DONALD Trump, whose marriage plans to Broadway starlet Maria Maples look off again, has another partnership on the rocks. The financier is suing his corporate colleagues of 14 years for \$500 million, alleging racketeering, fraud, extortion and money laundering. On the receiving end is the Chicago-based Pritzker family, which owns the Hyatt Hotel chain and the half of New York's Grand Hyatt not owned by Mr Trump. The property developer, whose name once appeared on almost anything he owned, alleges that the family is trying to force him out of the partnership so it can open more Hyatts in New York. The Pritzkers say that Mr Trump's allegations are without merit and claim that he has refused to pay his share of a \$2 billion renovation bill for the hotel. Mr Trump says he is making a comeback after the near collapse of his empire three years ago.

Climbing higher

SIR Terry Haizer, the former civil servant and hero of the Thatcher regime, has notched up yet another directorship. After years in the non-executive ranks, Sir Terry has finally become a full-fledged executive director of Smith New Court, the stockbroking firm. But he is still open to other offers. Joking that his non-executive directorships of 11 Stainesbury, Wessex Water and Abbey National, have allowed his wife and daughters to indulge their interests in wine

and property, he says that they now want him to try something in mountaineering. Any offers, anyone?

Paying the price

THE first jobs survey conducted by the charitable Milken Institute since its chairman and former junk bond king Michael Milken left prison, concludes that Americans believe a leading cause of job loss is that corporate executives are paid too much. Mr Milken earned what was then a record \$500 million in 1987 just before the collapse of his former employer, the investment bank Drexel Burnham Lambert.

Maastrichted?

EXPAT shoppers strolling along Madrid's fashionable Calle Serrano were shocked recently to discover that one section of Marks and Spencer's food department was empty, a curtain draped across the shelves. Funny enough, the section in ques-

tion was "British Specialities". But across the aisle, tubs of M&S Gazpacho, a Spanish speciality, were selling briskly. Spaniards might ask if all British delicacies have been Maastrichted. No surprise that a gourmet trade show in Madrid for Spanish restaurants featured no British exhibitors. British food companies have been so slow to export to Spain that experts looking for a reinvigoration of their gastronomic heritage haven't got beyond breakfast. Once the British embassy got round to launching Weetabix, other cereals, marmalade, sliced bread, chocolates and tea fast became the biggest British food successes, according to Mar Molina of Food From Britain in Madrid.

Shining star

DIAMOND traders are mourning the death of Kirilka Mehta, who is credited with building the Indian diamond industry into a multi-million pound concern. Born in 1907, Mehta entered the family diamond business at the age of 12 after the death of his father. He later founded Gembel, the international diamond company that now employs 25,000 in Hong Kong, New York, Tokyo and Bangkok as well as in the leading diamond cutting centres of Bombay, Antwerp and Tel Aviv — all run by family members. Deeply involved in India's independence movement, Mehta spent many of his later years in Israel, where he was honoured by the government in 1973 as a leading exporter. He was also awarded the Order of Leopold for services to the Belgian diamond industry.



BUSINESS LETTERS

Investors put off by directors' greed

From Mr Donald B. Butcher Sir, "Rarely has the equity market needed private investors so much" writes Graham Searjeant (July 21). He identifies a number of reasons why buying equities in quoted Ples may appeal less and less to private shareholders.

May I suggest another reason which he doesn't mention? The more shareholders become aware of directors' profligacy in more and more companies, the more averse they will become to buying equities.

The nine million plus shareholders are daily bombarded by media criticism — well-earned criticism, too — of the extravagant rewards extracted from shareholders' funds by greedy directors. This last week has seen articles in newspapers of £500,000 pensions secured by artificial increases in final year's pay, options granted at near zero cost and rolling contracts often resulting in £1 million-plus compensation paid to unsuccessful executives. The government has so far conspicuously avoided saying or taking any

action to show, whether it wishes these nine million shareholders to remain passive punters or help them to become probing proprietors. The country's future well-being demands that they behave like proprietors.

Private shareholders — and the government — should focus their minds on taking effective action. Evidence is building up that the Cadbury Code will achieve little. Urgent changes in the Companies Act are an obvious priority. This association, wholly supported by shareholders' subscriptions and aiming to be the voice of all private shareholders, will continue to press for action.

As your leader so pungently put it over two years ago (May 24, 1991), "Shareholders of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your overpaid chairman."

Yours faithfully,
DONALD B. BUTCHER
(Management & Engineering Consultant),
United Kingdom
Shareholders' Association,
12 Borough Heath Road,
Epsom, Surrey.

Single currency only way to halt speculation

From Mr Anthony Pearce Sir, The clamour for a cut in interest rates to provoke a fall in sterling's exchange rate is a remarkable demonstration of short-termism.

Over the past 40 years, this country has only been able to compete by steadily devaluing the currency, rather than tackling the fact that we have continually priced ourselves out of international markets.

The Chancellor is right for wanting to get closer to other European currencies because in doing so he will be forcing British business to face up to this long-term challenge. The

only effective way of preventing currency speculation is to have a single currency, so that dealers cannot prey on weak currencies.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PEARCE
(Chief Executive),
Access European Economic Interest Grouping,
40 Rue de Toulouse,
B-1040 Brussels,
Belgium.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of *The Times* can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Instability favours index-linked stocks

Gilts have been a clear beneficiary from the escalation of ERM tensions, sterling's safe-haven status encouraging strong inflows of international funds to UK financial markets. With little to suggest that the problems of the exchange-rate mechanism are about to evaporate, the gilt-edged market should continue to profit from the misfortunes of others.

Over the past week or so, an area of increasingly active debate is what might happen in the event of the "unthinkable" — the collapse of the system. There is little doubt that UK bonds would continue to benefit, at least over the comparatively near term. The popularity of sterling would be undented, initially as a store of value in conditions of extreme uncertainty and later as a currency set to gain support from a firming economic background. This will remain a major source of strength for bond prices.

Add to this a backdrop of falling European interest rates and yields, as governments use their new-found economic freedom to combat recession via a significant relaxation of monetary policies, and the stage is set for lower UK yields and interest rates.

Index-linked gilts could provide the best performance in these circumstances. Barring the occasional flurry, price movements in this sector since mid-February have been relatively disappointing. In the two months to mid-July, for example, the clean price of Conversion 9% 2011 rose 6.6 per cent, against a mere 2.9 per cent for Index-linked 2 1/2

per cent. In contrast, the very sharp fall in real yields between sterling's exit from the ERM last September and end-February produced returns, calculated on the same basis, of 20 per cent on the index-linked against 5 per cent on the conventional issue.

During the period of outperformance, the index-linked market had responded to two stimuli in particular — higher inflation expectations (which have proved misguided) and significantly lower short-term and long-term real interest

rates. Admittedly, inflation expectations have improved since then and this may have acted as a drag on prices.

More important than this, real yields in the gilt market had fallen to a level where international considerations came back into play. Specifically, further substantial declines would not prove sustainable without some downward adjustment in real yields to continental Europe.

The conditions for this would improve in the event of a widespread and profound currency realignment or a collapse of the ERM. The opportunity this would

ERM's turmoil points up the attractions of index-linking in the face of uncertainty

Such an environment would highlight the attractions of index-linked gilts as a source of capital growth and protection from international as well as domestic uncertainty.

Conventional gilt yields would be expected to fall but the dramatic changes in the international environment, as well as worries over the eventual extent and impact of changes in these policy objectives, suggest investors could require an increase in the risk premium for holding these as opposed to index-linked stocks. If this proves to be the case, the much shorter duration of conventional bonds would most certainly ensure smaller price gains relative to index-linked.

CHRIS ANTHONY
UBS Limited

BBC1

- 6.00 Business Breakfast (23083)
 7.00 Breakfast News (4405840)
 9.05 Hangar 17 (1) (S) (944821) 9.25 Artfax (1) (S) (944821)
 10.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1351002) 10.05 Playdays (S) (328368) 10.25 Lassie (1) (S279483)
 11.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1351002) 11.05 The High Chaparral (1) (S279483) 11.55 The History Man. Bryan McNeilly explores the life of the 17th-century Englishman, John Evelyn (944821) 12.00 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (1351002) 12.05 Ulliput in Antarctica. Captain Cousteau and his team are joined by six young people from different parts of the world on an expedition to Antarctica (2204662) 12.55 Regional News and weather (7178655)
 1.00 News with Maryn Lewis. (CeeFax) Weather (42444) 1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (S) (8043037)
 1.50 Going for Gold. General knowledge quiz with European contestants. The question master is Henry Dally (S) (8043192) 2.15 Dallas (1) (CeeFax) (S274734)
 3.00 Bazzar. Alison Mitchell helps a woman who is embroiled in her son's debts (1647) 3.30 Dream Merchants of Asia. The Taiwan film industry, which includes the world's largest animation studio (5470260)
 3.55 Cartoon Time. Double bill (7080043) 4.10 The Adventures of Skipper (S) (242937) 4.35 Todd Crusaders (1) (CeeFax) (S280111)
 5.00 Newsround (256227) 5.10 The Lowdown. Polly Cotte, daughter of circus owner Garry Cotte, performs her aerial act (3202260)
 5.35 Neighbours (1) (CeeFax) (S) (829395) Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart. (CeeFax) Weather (65)
 6.30 Regional News. Magazines (37). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
 7.00 Hunters in the Wild. (CeeFax) (S) See Choice (8956)
 7.30 Young Driver of the Year. The last of the heats for the Volkswagen trophy. (CeeFax) (21)
 8.00 Sea Hawk. A comedy starring Miriam Karlin as a dead Jewish man who haunts the family now living in her house. (CeeFax) (S) (2376)
 8.30 Waiting for God. Stephanie Cole and Graham Crowden star as the retirement home rebels. (CeeFax) (S) (4111)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Maryn Lewis. (CeeFax) Weather (9647)



Set point: burglars on the rampage (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Panorama: To Catch a Thief. A report on the growth of vigilantism in Britain (52173)
 10.10 Blot on the Landscape. Episode three of the dramatization of Tom Sharpe's comic novel. (CeeFax) (49637) Northern Ireland: St Patrick's and the Tiger. 10.55 Blot on the Landscape. 11.50 Come Dancing. 12.25-12.55 Making Advances in the first semi-final. (CeeFax) (S) (78711)
 11.40 Making Advances. The second of five films in which Emma Freud examines sexual harassment at work (61937). Wales: Cricket. 12.10-12.40 Making Advances. 12.10-12.40 Making Advances (560336)
 2.00-3.00 BBC Select: Voluntary Sector Television

BBC2

- 6.45 Open University (848558)
 8.00 Breakfast News (4358005)
 8.15 Ghostwriter (1) (S) (1805821) 8.40 Collecting Now (1) (S279483)
 9.00 Film: Two O'Clock Courage (1945, b/w). Tom Conway stars as an innocent amnesiac accused of murder. Directed by Anthony Mann (745024)
 10.05 Film: Criminal Court (1946, b/w) starring Tom Conway. Pacy courtroom drama, directed by Robert Wise (5448753). Wales: Wilderness is Not a Place. 10.20 Small Objects of Desire. 10.50-1.05 Cricket: Glamorgan v Australia
 11.05 Film: Another Fine Mess (1930, b/w). Excellent Laurel and Hardy comedy, directed by James Parrott (636389)
 11.35 Film: The Champ (1932, b/w). Laurel and Hardy inherit a chimpanzee from a bankrupt circus. Directed by James Parrott (948005)
 12.00 The Sky Has a Link. Why Europe's airlines are overcrowded (1238163) 12.50 Caravaggio: The Monarch of the Glen (1) (S453260) 1.05 In the Garden (1) (S414788)
 1.20 Johnson and Friends (1) (2041573) 1.30 King Rollo (1) (S2041182)
 1.35 Wildlife Safari to the Argentine. An exploration of the Patagonia coastline (1) (1988047). Wales (10.00): Cricket: Glamorgan v Australia
 2.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (9430666) 2.05 Reservoirs of Strength. The difficulties of rehabilitation faced by burn victims (179173)
 3.00 News (CeeFax) and weather (1428734) 3.05 Summer Praise (1) (CeeFax) (S) (1854366) 3.40 A Week To Remember (b/w) (1430550) 3.50 News (CeeFax), regional news and weather (143734)
 4.00 European Swimming Championships from the Ponds Forge pool, Sheffield (3005)
 6.00 Film: Heigh Ho (1968) starring John Wayne. Simple-minded action story, based on the exploits of the oil freighter "Red" Adair. Directed by Andrew V. McLaglen (8802)



Mix and match: Benjamin Zephaniah (8.00pm)

- 6.00 Birthrights: Crossing the Tracks. (CeeFax) (S) See Choice (8078)
 8.30 Film: Anything to Survive (1990) starring Robert Conrad and Matthew Leback. Reckless fast-paced drama about a family trip that turns into a nightmare. Directed by Zia Dalen. (CeeFax) (7755)
 10.00 KTV. Comedy series about a satellite television company (1) (S) (30550)
 10.30 Newsnight presented by Sue Cameron. (CeeFax) (12173)
 11.15 Chalk Reaction. A Swiss film showing chain reactions involving fire, water, gravity and chemistry (1) (281376)
 11.45 Tribe. A short film about the inner city lifestyles in the United States (88579) 11.55 Weather (877463)

Video titles and the Video PlusCode
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CHOICE



The West and Bosnia: Nik Gowing (C4, 9.15pm)

Diplomacy and Deceit
 Channel 4, 9.15pm
 A provocative report by Nik Gowing of Channel 4 News accuses Western governments of contributing to the Yugoslav tragedy by refusing to back diplomacy with force. While anxious to be seen to be taking the initiative, the West has instead pursued an ineffective policy of appeasement. Gowing, a former official of the American state department, says the West presented the world with a "charade of diplomatic efforts" without any intention of getting seriously involved. The report highlights Germany's pressure on the EC to recognise Croatia and Slovenia. The EC gave in to prevent a slip over Maastricht but the decision hastened the outbreak of war in Bosnia.

The Roots of War
 Channel 4, 11.15pm
 Anyone setting out to explain the Bosnian conflict needs to go a long way back and to hack a lucid path through a very dense jungle. This French documentary makes a brave stab, inevitably simplifying but getting a lot into short space. It makes excellent use of maps, without which the political and ethnic complexities of the former Yugoslavia are virtually incomprehensible. The film starts with the faithful murder in Sarajevo in 1914 and comes almost up to the present. Two points stand out. One is that genocide is not the invention of the Serbs. The Croats were practising it 50 years earlier. The other is that Yugoslavia's only period of stability came under Tito. Perhaps there is something to be said for communism after all.

Hunters in the Wild: Dining Alone

BBC1, 7.00pm
 Sir Anthony Hopkins earns himself a spot of pin money by narrating a three-part series on the animal world. The first episode, 'Hunters in the Wild', is a natural history programme that may find much of the material familiar while marvelling again at the camerawork which brings it so spectacularly into the living room. Tonight's theme is hunters who stalk alone and the examples are drawn from far and wide. We start with the kingfisher, are soon on to snakes (including one that can swallow a bird's egg whole) and then a huge lizard with a fearsome bite. But as usual the best footage is supplied by the cat family and in particular the graceful cheetah.

Birthrights: Crossing the Tracks

BBC2, 8.00pm
 The dub poet Benjamin Zephaniah presents, mainly in verse, a report on the black and Asian influence on British youth culture. It is a story of mix and match, cut and blend, as one tradition crosses into another. Where blacks and Asians used to go their separate ways, they are now coming from each other. Blacks are coming into white culture, and whites into black. The film includes Cheshire Cat, a white disc jockey who uses Jamaican patois. Another is Apache Indian, the first prominent Asian rapper to break into the general charts. Music provides some of the most potent examples, but the case is convincingly made that the barriers are also coming down in fashion, speech and even advertising.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 GMTV. Early morning news and entertainment (955482)
 9.25 The Edge. Teenage magazine (5892937) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2617918)
 10.00 Swamp Fox. The first of a seven-part Disney drama set in South Carolina during the War of Independence, starring Leslie Nielsen (4555043)
 10.55 News and weather (5033208)
 11.00 James Bond Jr. Animation (6043685) 11.25 Win, Lose or Draw. Game show (6013444) 11.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (9651395)
 12.00 Cartoon. Donald Duck (7012802) 12.10 Tote TV (1) (S) (2707885)
 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (8354111) 1.05 London Today (Teletext) and weather (84140043)
 1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (384802) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama (S) (383173)
 2.15 London Wildlife Challenge. Chris Packham and Tony Hare have to travel from the M25 to Knightsbridge by boat (1) (S) (30482) 2.45 Families. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (327463)
 3.10 ITN News headlines (1403840) 3.15 London Today (Teletext) and weather (1402111) 3.20 The Young Doctors. Drama serial (2107647)
 3.50 Cartoon with Tweety Pie (1) (4473463) 3.55 Bertie the Bear (1) (4472734) 4.00 Bag and the Rings of Olympus (1) (4422111)
 4.25 The Real Ghostbusters (1) (2432660) 4.50 Johnny Ball Reveals All. The world of water (825289)
 5.10 Home and Away (1). (Teletext) (2549840)
 5.40 Early Evening News (Teletext) and weather (56111)
 6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (50802)
 7.00 Jimmy's. Another fly-on-the-wall visit to St James's University Hospital, Leeds (S) (1024)
 7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (88)
 8.00 Wheel of Fortune. Game show (7444)
 8.30 World in Action. Images of War. The war in Bosnia seen through the lens of the African-British photographer Dan Eldon, who was beaten and stoned to death by a mob last month (S) (6579)
 9.00 Frank Stubbs Promotes. Frank (Timothy Spell) joins the movie world when he signs up a drama student (Emel McCourt) and meets a film director (John Gordon-Sinclair). (Teletext) (S) (6821)
 10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) and weather (34376) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (48227)
 10.40 Sport. All featuring golf highlights from the Scandinavian Open (501135)
 11.40 Nigel Mansell's IndyCar 93. Includes highlights of the Marlboro 500 from Brooklyn, Michigan (673482)
 12.40am The Beat. Music and movie magazine presented by Gary Crowley (S) (6939319)
 1.40 Sport. All featuring golf highlights from the Scandinavian Open (501135)
 2.40 60 Minutes. Topical news magazine from America (7805154) 3.30 Videofashion (83680)
 4.00 Hollywood Report. Showbusiness gossip (71845)
 4.30 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema. Film reviews (1) (68964) 5.00 Riviera. French drama serial (37864)
 5.30 ITN Morning News (66715). Ends at 6.00



Film set: Gordon-Sinclair, McCourt (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Frank Stubbs Promotes. Frank (Timothy Spell) joins the movie world when he signs up a drama student (Emel McCourt) and meets a film director (John Gordon-Sinclair). (Teletext) (S) (6821)
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 5.30 ITN Morning News (66715). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.30 Heathcliff. Cal cartoon (1415886) 6.45 Ovide. Animated adventures of a duck-billed platypus (1821821)
 7.00 The Big Breakfast presented by Chris Evans and Gaby Roslin (65365)
 9.00 Saved by the Bell. American high school comedy drama series (44753)
 9.30 Starstreet. Animated adventures of characters based on the signs of the zodiac (1) (2377395) 9.55 Hamman (2386314) 10.25 Pugwall. The story of a young man with musical ambitions (2628024)
 10.55 The Adventures of Tintin. Hergé's hero meets a yeti in Tibet (1) (8035480) 11.20 The Henderson Kids. Australian family drama series (1) (8045043) 11.50 Mago's Check-up. Cartoon (789666)
 12.00 High 5. Snow sports from Chamonix in the French Alps (31289)
 12.30 Sesame Street. Early learning series. The guest is Robin Williams (1) (50753)
 1.30 Sandokan. Animated adventures of a pirate prince (72024)
 2.00 Film. Come on George (1939, b/w). Typical gormless fun from George Formby as a stable lad who dreams of becoming a top jockey. Directed by Anthony Kimmins (434376)
 3.40 Swimming Lessons. A short from America about an aging beauty who hires a handsome lifeguard to teach her to swim and overcome her fear of water (705082)
 3.55 A Gardener's Guide. A visit to Hazel Gaze's national collection of petuniums, and advice from Wesley Gardener on how to grow them (1). (Teletext) (940889)
 4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley with another round of the words and numbers game (42)
 5.00 Kingdom of the Flamingo. The Waterhole. A documentary about the wildlife that wades the waterhole in the Etoia National Park, Namibia (1). (Teletext) (8837)
 6.00 Children's Ward. Drama series set in a city general hospital (1) (95)
 6.30 The Wonder Years. American comedy drama about growing up in the America of the 1960s (1). (Teletext) (47)
 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (948192)
 7.50 Bloody Bosnia. Refugees Stories. Another report from the war zone, with a refugee's story and an appeal (56918)
 8.00 Brookside. Soap set in a suburban Merseyside close (S) (8314)
 8.30 Evening Shade. American comedy starring Bob Reynolds as a small town high school football coach (S) (7821)
 9.00 Bloody Bosnia: The Essential Guide. The first of a three-part series on the history of the former Yugoslavia. (Teletext) (S) (762579)
 9.15 Bloody Bosnia: Diplomacy and Deceit. (Teletext) See Choice (578759)
 10.00 ITN Fly Away. American drama serial starring Sam Waterston. (Teletext) (S) (7650)
 10.30 Songs for Yugoslavia: Ute Lemper (11.00pm)
 11.00 Bloody Bosnia: Artists for Bosnia. Featuring singer Ute Lemper (70621)
 11.15 Bloody Bosnia: The Roots of War. See Choice (523550)
 12.00am Nights of Revolution. French drama series. English subtitles (1) (1397574). Ends at 1.25

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 3.55am Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (5892937) 1.05pm-1.15pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 1.15-1.30pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 1.30-1.45pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 1.45-2.00pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 2.00-2.15pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 2.15-2.30pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 2.30-2.45pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 2.45-3.00pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 3.00-3.15pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 3.15-3.30pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 3.30-3.45pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 3.45-4.00pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 4.00-4.15pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 4.15-4.30pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 4.30-4.45pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 4.45-5.00pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 5.00-5.15pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 5.15-5.30pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 5.30-5.45pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 5.45-6.00pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 6.00-6.15pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 6.15-6.30pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 6.30-6.45pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 6.45-7.00pm The Big Breakfast (50802) 7.00-7.15pm The 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'Banks prepare for their Custer's Last Stand'

ERM to
face new
assault

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL markets will today have their chance to test the determination of Europe's central banks to hold the exchange-rate mechanism together.

It is clear, from the fierce onslaught on the system launched by investors, dealers and speculators on Thursday and Friday, that only a sharp and immediate fall in European interest rates will be enough to persuade them to stop their campaign to break up the system.

Governments with ERM currencies hope that the short-term compromise package hammered out in Brussels last night will be enough to win a pause, and that the interest rate imbalances that have threatened the system dissolve.

Finance ministers and central bankers are united in their desire to keep the ERM intact, if more flexible, so the financial markets and European central banks will be engaged in a battle of wills. Michael Hughes, BZW's chief economist, said: "It looks like the central banks are preparing for a battle royal with the markets, a Custer's Last Stand. They clearly intend to try and preserve the system."

European finance ministers and central bankers knew yesterday that they had until midnight, when markets in Tokyo opened, to come up with a formula that would prevent a fresh attack on the currency mechanism and satisfy bond and share investors that they would get sharply lower interest rates. If there are not immediate rate cuts around Europe as a result of last night's package, there will be a dramatic retrenchment after strong rallies at the end of last week.

Ministers continued yesterday to blame speculators, rather than economic divergence and European recession, for the turmoil in the ERM. Anibal Cavaco Silva, Portugal's prime minister, said that there was no doubt

that speculators were trying to destroy the system and appealed to Germany for help in saving the mechanism. He said: "At this moment, no one can assess the strength of the speculators."

There was evidence that speculators, including some of the powerful New York based hedge funds, were selling the French franc and other weak links in the ERM on Friday. Because of prohibitively high interest rates, imposed to defend currencies, their selling was not very heavy. But even a radical overhaul of the system may not be enough to deter them from selling more heavily this week.

George Soros, the financier, said at the weekend that the ERM was broken and that currencies should be allowed to float as a step to creating a new system. He told BBC Television: "Given the behaviour of the Bundesbank, I think this system is well and truly broken and this ought to be recognised. As a first step, allow currencies to float and as a second step, create a new currency system."

The message from currency dealers yesterday was that an agreement that includes a small rate cut from Germany, coupled with wider fluctuation bands, would not be enough to satisfy the markets. Most currency experts believe the ERM must be broken to get the lower interest rates needed for the resumption of European growth. Above all, the markets want to know that the Brussels deal has the full backing of the Bundesbank, which is the anchor of the exchange rate system because it controls the mark, the reserve currency. "The Bundesbank has to be involved," said John Hall of Swiss Bank.

The more flexible currency system could play into speculators' hands. Although it could superficially ease central banks' task, their behaviour would still be crucial. One of the biggest technical problems in the system has been



In the eye of the storm: Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, arriving at the emergency meeting on the ERM's future in Brussels yesterday

that intervention by the Bundesbank to support weak ERM currencies bloats German M3 money supply, deterring the Bundesbank from rate cuts. The bank's decision to leave its discount rate unchanged last Thursday, the trigger for the current crisis in the ERM, was based partly on figures showing that M3 was growing at an annualised rate of 7.1 per cent.

Ministers going into yesterday's emergency meeting had already narrowed the options by their clear determination to avoid devaluing their currencies. The Danish finance minister, echoing the French, said there was no question of devaluing the krone and that it was up to Germany to stabilise the ERM. The Spanish said the peseta would not be devalued.

Theo Waigel, Germany's finance minister, launched a spirited defence of his country's contribution to stability in the ERM. He pointed to the Bundesbank's action in cut-

ting official interest rates on July 1 and allowing lower money market interest rates in recent weeks. He also noted the announcement on Friday that the Bundesbank would allow money market rates to fall below the discount rate, which normally acts as the floor to market rates.

He said the German government's moves to cut public spending and rein in a soaring deficit had contributed to currency stability. The ERM would continue to exist but with more flexibility. "Even if the EMS [European Monetary System] no longer existed, people would very quickly put all their effort into establishing an EMS," he said.

The meeting yesterday followed a session of the European Monetary Committee, composed of central bank and treasury officials from the 12 EC member states.

Rescue package, page 1
British view, page 2
Gilt-Edged, page 34

Note of caution sounded
over rush to stock market

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

FALLING stock market values earlier this summer did little to dissuade businesses from floating on the Stock Exchange. In April to June, the number of companies coming to the market was the highest quarterly figure since 1990 and was topped only by the flow of debutantes before the 1987 market crash.

In the second quarter of this year, 43 companies floated on the full market and the Unlisted Securities Market, an increase from only 18 a year previously and from a total of 70 for 1992 as a whole.

The figure was only matched by the last quarter of 1990. Before that, the highest

quarterly total was in the run-up to the market crash, according to figures from KPMG Corporate Finance.

Neil Austin, head of new issues, sounded a note of caution over the rush to the stock market. "It is evident that there has been a fair degree of opportunism," Mr Austin said. Most of those that floated in the second quarter had a market capitalisation of less than £30 million, with 12 capitalised at less than half that.

"There is concern that some of the recent arrivals will not be so happy in three years' time." But he noted that the level of public interest was in

marked contrast to 1992, with most recent issues offered to the public being oversubscribed. The flood of new issues continues today with the first dealings in Flying Flowers, a Jersey-based business offering flowers by post.

A total of 6.3 million new shares are being placed at 65p, valuing the company at £11.8 million. The company, chaired by Walter Goldsmith, a former director-general of the Institute of Directors, is forecasting pre-tax profits of at least £940,000 in the year to end-December and is priced at 14.7 times forecast earnings.

Tempus, page 34

Barclays shortlists candidates for chief executive

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

Buxton: to split roles

BARCLAYS Bank will not announce the appointment of a new chief executive until late summer, disappointing the City, which expected an announcement to be made with Barclays' half-year results on Thursday.

After searching since March, the group is, however, well on the way to offering the job to one of a short list of applicants. It will thus fulfil its pledge to split the roles of chairman and chief executive, which are now both held by Andrew Buxton.

Once the appointment is made, Barclays' first task will be to convince sceptics that the newcomer will have real executive responsibilities as full-time chairman.

Mr Buxton, and the committee of mostly non-executive directors, headed

by Sir Denys Henderson, which is in charge of recruiting the new chief executive, are thought to have spent several weeks working out how functions will be divided.

Spencer Stewart, the firm of headhunters appointed in March to find a chief executive, is believed to have made it clear to candidates that Mr Buxton, as chairman, is likely to concentrate on strategy, meaning external relations in the widest sense, including UK and worldwide regulatory matters and compliance.

The chief executive will run the group on a day-to-day basis, with all senior executives, including the finance director, reporting to him. But he will contribute, along with Sir Peter Middleton, executive deputy chairman, to strategy.

The bank is thought to want to appoint a British chief executive, perhaps with overseas experience, though it has considered candidates

from overseas. It has not ruled out recruiting a senior executive from industry, possibly someone who has worked as a financial director.

Mr Buxton, who took over as chief executive last summer and as chairman in January, agreed at the new year to split his responsibilities after pressure from the bank's institutional investors. Pressure intensified after Barclays' tumble into a pre-tax loss of £242 million in 1992 and halved its final dividend. In March, Sir Denys, chairman of ICI and a non-executive director of Barclays, was put in charge of a committee of five directors and asked to find a chief executive.

Barclays' other senior executives are believed to have given a mixed welcome to the idea of an external chief executive. Staff in UK retail banking have voiced fears about the impact of a chief executive. The UK bank has recently been through much change and is in the middle of a series of

projects aimed at revolutionising the way it provides services. This includes a pilot telephone banking project and risk management experiments. Barclays is also establishing a central database of customer records so that staff in all branches will be able to open and update accounts. Staff fear that a newcomer will want to carry out still more changes.

However, given that Barclays restructured its business as recently as 1991, creating three divisions — banking, service businesses and BZW — sudden change is unlikely.

Analysts expect Barclays to return to profit after last year's second-half loss. Forecasts range from Warburg's estimate of £115 million pre-tax to Hoare Govett's £250 million, compared with £51 million in the first half of 1992. But a cut in the interim dividend from 9.2p to 6p is expected. Bad debt provisions are likely to stay at about 1992's first-half £1 billion.

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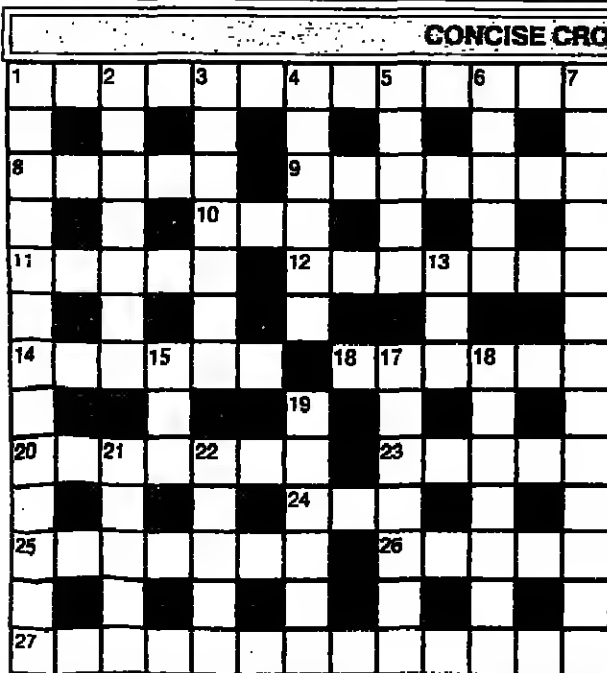
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- Greek serfs (6)
- Be imminent (6)
- Real, actual (7)
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- Copy (3)
- Satisfy (7)
- Greek music theatre (5)
- Captured (5,8)

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- Two-candidate contest (8,5)
- Conjugal (7)
- Hearing range (7)
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- Employment (5)
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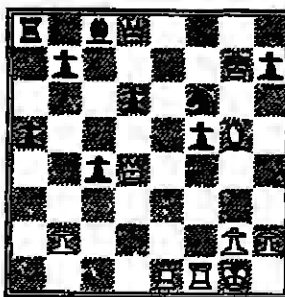
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Aron Nimzowitsch, who was active early this century, played chess with a rare mystery and beauty. Today's position is from the game Nimzowitsch — Marshall, New York 1927. How does White exploit the deadly crossfire of pawns which he has set up?

For credit card bookings for the Times Championship between Garry Kasparov and Nigel Short, ring First Call on 071-497 9977.

Solution, page 33
Championship Chess, page 7

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

DECATESSARAD
a. Jug for an alcoholic beverage
b. A poem of fourteen lines
c. A Russian card game

SESSLE
a. A man's name
b. The rough draft of a novel
c. To move uneasily

GUNYANG
a. A form of oriental music
b. A weapon used in Vietnam
c. An Australian shrub

Answers on page 33

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